

CLINICAL TRAINING OVERVIEW

The HCMA Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Curriculum aims to equip dedicated individuals—called and gifted by God—with the skills to become Board Certified or Certified Clinical Chaplains, preparing them to be compassionate and professionally skilled spiritual caregivers within healthcare settings.

Goal

The 1,600-hour (4-unit) HCMA CPE Curriculum is structured to develop chaplains who demonstrate professional expertise and competency in biblically centered pastoral care for patients, residents, families, and healthcare staff.

Objectives

- Acquaint trainees with healthcare systems, enabling effective functioning as spiritual caregivers.
- Enhance trainees' abilities to assess and address spiritual and emotional needs of patients, families, and staff.
- Strengthen trainees' interpersonal communication skills.
- Support spiritual growth and personal discipline in trainees.
- Prepare trainees for compassionate, skilled responses to the diverse crises faced by those in their care.
- Foster teamwork and collaboration among trainees, healthcare personnel, the religious community, and HCMA.
- Educate trainees on medical ethics and decision-making in healthcare.
- Develop professional competency and uphold high ethical standards in chaplaincy care.
- Provide ongoing evaluation and peer review to track progress.
- Assist trainees in finding ministry partners to support their work.

Curriculum Content

The HCMA CPE Curriculum consists of six comprehensive online units, with each offering materials and assignments accessible through HCMA's website.

- **Unit One** covers foundational topics like the biblical basis of pastoral care, chaplaincy roles, hospital visitation, listening skills, end-of-life care, grief counseling, and emergency response. Completion may lead to certification as a Chaplain Assistant.
- **Unit Two** focuses on the professional role of a healthcare chaplain, including spiritual assessment, cross-cultural ministry, teamwork, staff care, and insights on suffering, healing, and spiritual warfare.
- **Unit Three** explores the history of chaplaincy, healthcare protocols, crisis counseling, medical ethics, family dynamics, funerals, and the role of prayer across religions.
- **Unit Four** addresses mental health ministry, social issues in healthcare, elderly care, oncology support, setting boundaries, avoiding compassion fatigue, and setting up a chaplain's office.

This curriculum provides comprehensive, guided training to ensure chaplains are thoroughly prepared for impactful ministry in healthcare.



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