



Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

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The following information is a resource for a good CPE experience. We hope you will follow this information in the process of applying for CPE and in how you schedule your course work during this experience.

- Apply for your CPE site early. Contact the CPE location at the time you are registering for classes, as this is a part of your course load for the semester. Note: All CPE units are completed at accredited clinical sites. This is not a course that is offered directly by Anderson School of Theology as a residential class. To locate accredited CPE sites in your area, go to www.acpe.edu, the website of the national organization, Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. For specific information on accredited sites in the Mid-west go to www.ecracpe.org.
- As a rule of thumb, the more specialized the setting for CPE, the earlier a student needs to apply as this is a competitive application process.
- Do not take the application lightly. This is a major way that the CPE site collects information about you and determines if you are the right individual for them. The application involves six essays. You should budget between 20 and 30 hours of time to write the application. The good news is that you may submit the same application to multiple sites.
- Do not take the interview lightly. For the basic CPE unit, this is not a job interview, but a ministry interview about your experience, work, how well you know yourself, etc., in order that you might provide help in that particular CPE site to its clients.
- CPE is equal to 6 hours of coursework (400 hours of contact time at the clinical site); plan your semester schedule accordingly. This is not an add on to your coursework,

but an integral part of your course load for the semester in which you take CPE. For students taking an intensive unit of CPE (completed in one semester), do NOT register for additional classes during that semester.

- Interviews will be held in advance of receiving your acceptance into a CPE site. There may be a gap in the time between the interview and your formal acceptance in the program. Do not add additional courses to your academic schedule after the interview. This creates problems for the CPE site and release time for you to take classes. You may not be able to complete the CPE, as this must be your first priority.
- Once you are accepted into a CPE experience, you are expected to be there. You will need to make this your academic priority. Do not register for a CPE if you have prior obligations during the semester e.g. a short-term mission trip in the middle of the experience.

CPE involves not only you, but also the lives of patients or clients, their families, the medical staff you work with daily, and your colleagues in your CPE cohort. All of these people are counting on your reliability and faithfulness. The hospital or CPE context will become your parish and will translate into your local ministry; the people with whom you work in CPE are your congregation.

More information see:

www.acpe.edu

www.ecracpe.org

Testimonials from students who have recently completed CPE:

“You are called into ministry. You did not stumble into it; have an open mind and open heart as you work in this ministry area.”

Sharyn Abbott MDV ‘11

“Through CPE, God spoke into my life in a way that I may not have heard in the classroom.”

Michael Pickett MDV ‘12

“In CPE, ministry becomes real on a different level. You will learn to understand yourself, see people differently, and practically embody the Bible.”

Lydia Randolph MDV ‘10