

CPE Goals and Objectives

The Goals of the Cleveland Clinic CPE Program reflect the Objectives of The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education and lead to spiritual care skills that enhance healing. The goal of the CPE programs is to educate excellent spiritual care providers to serve in hospitals, communities, religious congregations and other institutional settings. Students reflect with a peer group of 4-6 colleagues who apply the action-reflection-action model to learning. Each student provides approximately 300 hours of spiritual care to patients and at least 100 hours of experiential learning in a peer group. The program requires students to have the ability to navigate long distances each day, use a computer, reflect spiritually on their relationship with care receivers, and to function at a graduate level. The program prepares students to provide excellent spiritual care to a diverse community.

- 1. *Pastoral Formation*** empowers students to develop greater awareness of themselves as spiritual care providers and of the ways their spiritual care affects persons. Students develop awareness of how their attitudes, values, assumptions, strengths, and weaknesses affect their spiritual care. Students develop skills and abilities to engage and apply the support, confrontation and clarification of the peer group for the integration of personal attributes and pastoral functioning.
- 2. *Pastoral Competence*** helps increase students' awareness and understanding of how persons, social conditions, systems, and structures affect their lives and the lives of others and how to address effectively these issues through their ministry. Students develop skills in providing intensive and extensive spiritual care and counseling to persons. Students grow in their ability to make effective use of their religious/spiritual/values-based heritage, theological/spiritual understanding, and knowledge of the behavioral sciences in their spiritual care of persons and groups. Students learn the spiritual care provider role in professional relationships and how to work effectively as a spiritual care member of a multidisciplinary team. Students enhance their capacity to use one's pastoral empathy and prophetic perspectives in preaching, teaching, leadership, management, spiritual care, and pastoral counseling.
- 3. *Pastoral Reflection*** helps increase each student's understanding, skill and ability to apply the clinical method of learning to the care of persons by reflecting on their practice of spiritual care. Students develop skills and abilities to use both individual and group education for personal and professional growth, including the capacity to evaluate one's practice of spiritual care.