

CPE at Wesley Theological Seminary

How can I get information about CPE programs in my area?

The ACPE website: www.acpe.edu has extensive information about CPE programs in the United States. Follow the links to the centers that most interest you, and contact them directly about program details.

What is CPE?

Clinical Pastoral Education is a form of interfaith professional education for pastoral ministry. It is experience-based learning that takes place in a hospital or another supervised and accredited learning site. CPE involves the learner in theological reflection on pastoral encounters, feedback from peers and supervisors, and new kinds of self-awareness and vocational clarity.

Who should take CPE?

Students preparing for the pastorate or other religious vocations are good candidates for this clinical training. Some conferences and ministry boards require candidates for ordained ministry to take one unit of CPE. Those who are interested in chaplaincy will likely need CPE in order to obtain employment positions in hospitals in North America. Those who are particularly interested in pastoral care and/or counseling will also need to take it. Many graduate programs in Pastoral Theology also consider CPE a prerequisite.

Can I take CPE for academic credit at Wesley?

Yes. As soon as you have taken one of the introductory pastoral care courses (PC111 or PC101), you may register for up to 9 credit hours of CPE toward master's level degree programs. This translates into one and one-half units of CPE. (One-half unit = 3 credit hours).

How do I register for CPE at Wesley?

Register as you would for any other course. At the same time, apply to CPE programs that interest you. You pay the usual tuition at Wesley, and Wesley pays the CPE charges at ACPE-accredited sites.

How do I apply for CPE programs?

Go to the website www.acpe.edu to download the application. Give yourself some time to fill this out, as it will require several pages of writing, references, etc. Send a copy of the application to any CPE sites that you wish to apply for. Plan ahead and get your applications in early, as many programs fill up several months in advance of their starting dates.

How do I identify a suitable CPE site?

Go to the website to view brief descriptions of sites around the country. Our local area is the "Mid-Atlantic Region." Alternatively, go to the registrar's office at Wesley and ask for a copy of the ACPE Directory, either a printed book or a CD. Look over the descriptions of the programs.

Think about the kind of ministry setting that most interests you. For example, in most hospitals, you would have relatively brief opportunities to minister to a large number of patients of diverse ages. By contrast, in a senior residential center you would be caring for elder persons almost exclusively, but would likely have time to develop ongoing relationships with them.

Additional issues to ask about in regard to each ministry site include:

- What kinds of units are offered? Extended units usually require you to go part-time over a 9-month period. Intensives usually go full time during the summer. Which do you prefer?
- How many hours per week will the CPE program require? Will you be expected to stay overnight for on-call duty?
- Do these hours, along with the geographical location of the site, mesh with the rest of your academic schedule and other commitments?
- Have other Wesley students done CPE at this site? If so, try to get their comments before making your final decision.
- Is the supervisor available for an interview? The supervisory relationship bears a significant role in the CPE learning process, so pay attention to your sense of whether or not this supervisor is someone you can work well with.

Whom should I contact with further questions?

For **registration** questions, please contact the Registrar's Office (registrar@wesleyseminary.edu).

For **making payment** if you desire to take CPE for academic credit at Wesley, please contact the Dean's Office (deansoffice@wesleyseminary.edu).