



CENTER for SPIRITUAL CARE & PASTORAL FORMATION

Certification Standards Excerpts:

Clinical Chaplain / Spiritual Care Practitioner (BCCC, BCSCP)

This certification level is for chaplains and spiritual care practitioners who are directly involved in providing pastoral care, spiritual care, pastoral psychotherapy, and pastoral/spiritual counseling. These certified individuals are in clinical, religious and community settings such as hospitals, hospice and palliative care agencies, behavioral health, nursing homes, military, prison, commercial, social justice, masjid, synagogue, church and other settings. These certified individuals contribute to the bio-physical, psycho-spiritual, and socio-relational healing of individuals and community.

Certification Standards Common to All CSCPF Categories

There are certification standards that apply to all categories of CSCPF certification, and standards that are unique to each specific category. Some of the requirements are objective and other requirements are a matter of subjective judgment regarding a candidate's level of functioning. In general, it should be clearly understood that:

- The certification process always emphasizes a candidate's ability to demonstrate the kind of profound personal and professional competence essential for clinical work in interpersonal relationships.
- The completion of formal requirements is always seen in relation to such a demonstrated ability to function.
- Certification is always a matter of judgment of one's professional peers who are delegated representatives of CSCPF.

Certification Requirements Common to All CSCPF Categories

To seek certification in CSCPF for any category, candidates shall demonstrate the following:

- Education consistent with the category of certification being sought.
- Clinical Pastoral Education and experience consistent with the category of certification being sought.
- Endorsement/ordination from the candidate's faith group for the certification being sought when such endorsement is required by the candidate's faith tradition to serve as a Chaplain.

General Requirements for Clinical Chaplain/Spiritual Care Practitioner Category

The essential requirements to receive certification as a Clinical Chaplain/Spiritual Care Practitioner include an MDiv or MDiv equivalency, 4 Units of CPE (including 1600 clinical hours), affiliation with a faith group, active membership in CSCPF and a CSCPF Practitioner Community, requisite documentation/papers, successful completion of the Practitioner Community Readiness Review, and a positive decision from the candidate's Certification Review Board.

Specific Clinical Chaplain/Spiritual Care Practitioner Certification Requirements

- Be an active member in good standing in both CSCP and a CSCP Practitioner Community.
- Completion of four units of CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) including 1600 clinical hours from a CSCP-affiliated Learning Center or from a CPE training center of a cognate group recognized by CSCP.
- Evaluations from the candidate's CPE supervisor for each unit of CPE education, or if all 4 units are completed under one supervisor, a Comprehensive Evaluation.
- Self-evaluation from the last unit of CPE, or candidate's Comprehensive Evaluation.
- Autobiographical statement and description of spiritual journey which demonstrates a mature level of self-awareness, honest and balanced self-reflection, and an integrative understanding of one's own psychodynamic and spiritual development.
- Written description and reflective commentary of the candidate's ongoing spiritual/contemplative practice, faith journey, or personal theology.
- Two case studies that demonstrate knowledge and experience in providing professional level pastoral/spiritual care.
- One full year of experience (may include CPE clinical hours) providing spiritual care in a clinical setting.
- Demonstration of CPE competencies.
- Successful completion of the Practitioner Community Readiness Review.
- Positive decision in favor of certification by the Practitioner Community's Certification Review Board consisting of at least four members.

Clinical Chaplain/Spiritual Care Practitioner Competencies

The candidate shall possess the ability to articulate and demonstrate CPE competencies/learning objectives within a clinical or ministry context. Therefore, the Certification Review Board must be able to affirm that the candidate:

1. Demonstrates the ability to understand and make use of the clinical process and the clinical method of learning. This includes the ability to understand and formulate clinical data, the ability to receive and utilize feedback and consultation.
2. Demonstrates the ability to creatively utilize individual supervision for personal and professional growth and for developing the capacity to evaluate one's ministry.

3. Demonstrates the ability to provide a critical analysis of their own religious or spiritual tradition.
4. Demonstrates the use of "the self" as a work in progress, and as the principal tool in pastoral/spiritual care and counseling. This includes the ability to reflect on "the self" and interpret their own life story both psychologically and theologically.
5. Demonstrates knowledge, experience, and inclusion of interfaith and integrative spiritual care in a clinical practice or ministerial setting.
6. Demonstrates basic care and counseling skills, which includes listening, empathy, reflection, analysis of problems, conflict resolution, and theological reflection.
7. Demonstrates the ability to relate with high personal and professional proficiency with persons in crisis across cultural and interfaith boundaries and empowers people to tell their story.
8. Demonstrates the ability to establish a pastoral/spiritual bond expressed as a non-anxious presence with persons and groups in various life situations and crisis circumstances.
9. Demonstrates an understanding of the dynamics of group behavior, the variety of group experiences, and to utilize the support, confrontation and clarification of the peer group for the integration of personal attributes and pastoral/spiritual functioning.
10. Demonstrates the ability to articulate spiritual assessment tools utilized in a ministry or clinical context, including the ability to make an integrated and age-specific clinical/pastoral/spiritual assessment with special reference to understanding psychodynamics, the meaning and significance of religious symbols and spiritual values.
11. Demonstrates the ability to make a pastoral or spiritual assessment with special reference to the nature and quality of religious and spiritual values and to assess embedded theology in self and others.
12. Demonstrates familiarity with, and effective use of, core literature in clinical, behavioral sciences, theological and spiritual disciplines, including but not limited to: crisis intervention theory and practice; grief and loss; interdisciplinary and interfaith patient care; spiritual assessment; group and family systems theory and behavior; gender issues in pastoral/spiritual care; ethical issues; and personal/professional boundaries in the delivery of pastoral/spiritual care.
13. Demonstrates leadership ability and personal/pastoral authority.
14. Demonstrates the ability to work as a pastoral member on an interdisciplinary team.
15. Demonstrates evidence of high ethical commitment, including absolute respect for the worth and rights of persons, and an understanding and assent to the CSCPF Statement of Rights and Ethics.

Certification Application Checklist

- Before submitting an online Request for Certification, candidates should meet and/or have in hand ALL of the following:
- Be an active member in good standing in CSCPF and a CSCPF Practitioner Community.
- Have chosen a certification category for which they believe they meet the standards and requirements. This choice -- and related experience and documentation -- should be reviewed and affirmed in discussion with the Practitioner Community.
- Have the full contact information for the candidate's Practitioner Community Certification Representative.
- Know the dates, locations, and CPE supervisor(s) of all required/completed units of CPE.
- Know the dates, locations and site supervisor(s) of one full year of experience providing clinical spiritual care (may include CPE clinical hours).
- Have in PDF form all CPE evaluations, or Comprehensive Evaluation.
- Have in PDF form a self-evaluation of the last unit of CPE, or Comprehensive Evaluation.
- Have in PDF form an autobiographical statement and description of spiritual journey which demonstrates a mature level of self-awareness, honest and balanced self-reflection, and an integrative understanding of one's own psychodynamic and spiritual development.
- Have in PDF form a written description and reflective commentary of the candidate's ongoing spiritual/contemplative practice, faith journey, or personal theology.
- Have in PDF form two case studies that demonstrate knowledge and experience in providing professional level pastoral/spiritual care.