

### What is CPE? Why should I consider CPE as part of my theological training?

The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. (ACPE) defines CPE as interfaith professional education for ministry; bringing theological students and ministers of all faiths (pastors, priests, rabbis, imams and others) into supervised encounter with persons in crisis. Out of an intense involvement with persons in need, and the feedback from peers and teachers, students develop new awareness of themselves as persons and of the needs of those to whom they minister. From theological reflection on specific human situations, they gain a new understanding of ministry. Within the interdisciplinary team process of helping persons, they develop skills in interpersonal and interprofessional relationships.

MTSO students may elect to complete a basic unit (400 clock hours) of CPE for academic credit at a facility accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE). A directory of more than 200 nationwide facilities accredited by ACPE is available on the ACPE website, [www.acpe.edu](http://www.acpe.edu). Several centers in the immediate area provide a rich variety of contexts and supervisory styles, including: Nationwide Children's Hospital, Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, OhioHealth, and others.

The 400-hour unit is completed through work as chaplains in hospitals, clinics, parishes or other institutions, under the close supervision of a trained chaplain/supervisor. Past participants have found the CPE experience to be an intensive, sometimes emotionally challenging and frequently exhilarating occasion for learning.

Here are only some of the powerful outcomes from CPE:

- Honest feedback from fellow students and the chaplain/supervisor
- Understanding and developing an appropriate use of self in ministry
- Growing awareness of one's strengths as a person/pastor
- Growing awareness of how assumptions may inform one's ministry
- Growing clarity about how one's faith as a pastor and as a person in crisis affects healing

CPE is not a requirement of MTSO for all programs but has strong faculty support as a vehicle through which many students may learn much about giving pastoral care.

### What if I want to learn more or find a CPE placement?

1. Students pursuing this opportunity must contact the facility directly and follow their procedures for application and admission. Once accepted, a copy of the acceptance letter must be provided to both the Academic Affairs Office at MTSO.
2. Students register at MTSO for PC-510, Clinical Pastoral Education and pay tuition to MTSO. MTSO pays the fees charged by the facility, as long as they do not exceed the tuition charged by MTSO. The site's fees are paid upon receipt of an invoice in the MTSO Business Office. Students may apply for financial aid, following stated procedures and deadlines established by the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid.
3. MTSO will award between three and six credit hours for one basic unit of CPE. Credit is awarded once a copy of the final CPE evaluations are received in the Academic Affairs Office. Students must request both the supervisor's and their own final signed evaluations from their clinical site. CPE is normally graded on a credit/no credit (CR/NC) basis, but in special circumstances it may be possible to receive a letter grade after making prior arrangements with the CPE supervisor.
4. Students who use a unit of CPE for their field education requirement may not also receive separate credit for the CPE unit. They should only register for field education.