



Clinical Pastoral Education: FAQs

What is CPE?

-Clinical Pastoral Education is a nationwide program which places students in supervised group settings where they explore and develop their own ministry practices, self-awareness and pastoral identity while caring for persons in need.

When can students begin CPE?

-Students at CTS are eligible for CPE after taking 4 courses (including Intro to Pastoral Care or Intro to Pastoral Theology)
-Some students prefer to complete field placement before CPE. This is optional.

What is the process for applying to a CPE program?

-Review list of CTS courses taken to ensure eligibility
-Visit the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education (www.acpe.edu) website to locate institutions and dates of CPE opportunities
-Download CPE application from www.acpe.edu
 -CPE application has 5 parts and is approximately 20-25 pages once completed
-Discuss application with Asst. Professor of Theological Field Education
-Submit application to more than one prospective site
-Follow up with prospective sites for additional questions and interview
-Students should give 3-4 months lead time in the application process

Where do students complete CPE?

-The Association of Clinical Pastoral Education (www.acpe.edu) provides list of accredited sites throughout the U.S.
 -Most in hospital, nursing home or hospice settings
 -Urban CPE (Chicago) partners with social service agencies
 -Centered Life (Denver) has an online format; students complete one week training in Denver, 100 hours of peer and supervisory sessions online via Moodle and engage in 300 practical hours in their respective city

How long are CPE sessions?

-CPE is comprised of 300 hours of practical work and 100 hours peer sessions and supervision for a total of 400 hours
-There are three iterations of CPE:
 Extended (September-May)—10-15 hours p/week
 Winter (January-May)—15-20 hours p/week
 Summer (June-August)—40 hours p/week
(Format determined by respective sites as listed on www.acpe.edu)

Do students register for CPE?

-Yes. CTS students taking CPE for credit register for it as any other class and pay for it like they pay for other courses. The Registrar then sends the applicable CPE fee to the site. If a student selects not to take CPE for credit, then the student is responsible for submitting the fee to the site. The average cost is \$400-500. Centered Life is approximately \$3,000 due to travel and additional educational variables.

For more information on CTS' requirements for CPE, please contact Stephanie Crowder, Asst. Professor of Field Education and New Testament, at sbcrowder@ctschicago.edu or check the MDiv Handbook or visit <https://www.ctschicago.edu/academics/field-education>.