Clinical Pastoral Education/Training

Clinical Pastoral Education/Training (CPE/T) is interfaith professional education/training for ministry that brings seminary students, ministers and laypersons of all faiths into encounters with those who are ill or in crisis. Through direct involvement with those in need and feedback from peers, mentors, and supervisors, CPE/T participants develop a new awareness of themselves as individuals and of the needs of those to whom they minister. From theological and psychological reflection on specific human situations, they gain a new understanding of ministry.

CPE/T is a learning opportunity for individuals interested in discerning the practice of ministry, those seeking personal growth, and those wishing to pursue professional health care chaplaincy. It is a form of applied theological education that takes place in both the academic classroom and in the clinical setting. Each unit of CPE is 400 hours which includes 100 hours of seminars, reflective writing, and supervision, and 300 hours of clinical experience.

For more information, contact Rev. James E. Steward II at 516-632-4586 or by email at James.StewardII@snch.org

The Mount Sinai South Nassau CPE/T Program offers a unique and specialized setting for the art and practice of pastoral counseling and ministry in the 21st Century. Our program is designed for CPE/T chaplains to practice ministry skills with hospital patients in a variety of settings: a trauma center, birthing center, medical-surgical units, critical care and intermediate care units, pediatric units, rehabilitation units, palliative care units and behavioral health units.

Although the main focus for CPE Chaplains is on face-to-face clinical interaction with patients, the program is also designed to help participants look inside themselves, examine their interaction with others as well as learn their strengths, weaknesses, and blind spots. At various times during the program participants will be asked to give intentional written and verbal feedback to each other to help them gain insight about how their personality, life experience, and faith tradition shape their ministry and the way they provide pastoral care.

There are also approximately 12 hours of group classes/meetings each month which include: Individual presentations and discussion of case reports of ministry, didactics about pastoral care theory and practice, experiential learning about personal issues and group dynamics, regular meetings with supervisor for one on one consultation, insight of Anton Boisen, that the patient is a living human document, addresses the challenge and responsibility to develop one’s knowledge, skills, pastoral identity, competence, and authority while attending to the bio-cultural, emotional, ethical, psychosocial and spiritual needs and requests of the patients, caregivers and, in certain situations, staff members.

Upon successful completion of the program, trainees are awarded a formal Certificate of Completion at the CPE/T Graduation. All trainees are also provided with a written, confidential, evaluation of their participation. Letters confirming completion will also be sent to the related seminary or judicatory upon request.
The CPE/T Program Supervisor

Rev. James E. Steward II is the Director of Spiritual Care Services and Education at Mount Sinai South Nassau. He is a CPE Supervisor Diplomate in Pastoral Supervision in The College of Pastoral Supervision & Psychotherapy (CPSP) as well as a Board Certified Clinical Chaplain and Pastoral Counselor.

Our CPE/T program is accredited by the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy (CPSP), which is an international, theologically based covenant community, offering accreditation and certification to individuals and programs that meet standards of expertise in pastoral counseling, pastoral supervision and psychotherapy (www.cpsp.org).

CPE/T Program Options available through Mount Sinai South Nassau

Extended unit CPE/T program – Trainees work 12-15 clinical hours per week in the hospital in addition to the weekly group hours and receive credit for one unit of CPE. CPE Chaplains provide spiritual care for staff, patients, and families on assigned clinical areas, respond to emergency needs throughout the hospital, and provide on-call coverage after hours.

Schedule: Annually September to March
Application Deadline: August 1

10 week summer intensive CPE/T program – Trainees work 24 clinical hours per week in the hospital in addition to 16 weekly group hours and receive credit for one unit of CPE. CPE Chaplains provide spiritual care for staff, patients, and families on assigned clinical areas, respond to emergent needs throughout the hospital, and may provide on-call coverage after hours.

Schedule: Annually June through August
Application Deadline: May 1