

CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY – VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL
AFFILIATED WITH THE
VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SPIRITUAL CARE

Vancouver General hospital is the 2nd largest tertiary care centre in Canada and has been running CPE programs for over 20 years. The CPE program for VGH is approved by the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care. Located in the Fairview district of Vancouver, British Columbia, Vancouver General hospital is one of the largest tertiary centers in the country. As such students have the opportunity for placements in a variety of specialized areas as well as general medicine and surgery wards. Persons of all faith affiliations and those without affiliation are welcome to make application.

EDUCATIONAL ORIENTATION OF CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION - CPE

C.P.E. is an experiential action/reflection model of education. It is in many respects a hybrid blend of the pastoral/spiritual-tradition and modern sociological and psychological approaches to care. As a member of an inter-professional team, each student's educational experience involves providing pastoral care to patients, families and staff.

Learning occurs through direct experience, use of reflective tools, didactic sessions, dialogue around cases in an interfaith peer group, as well as individual supervision.

C.P.E. is an intense form of adult education that actively explores human emotion, meaning making, and interpersonal relationships with reference to their relevance for Spiritual Care practice. There is an emphasis on staying present in the moment to our experiences. Each student is part of the group and each student's learning is largely dependent on the dedication of group members to providing honest feedback and support. As such, personal maturity is as important as academic background in assessing a student's readiness for this form of education. Students learn to integrate their understanding of head and heart, emotion and thought, theology and experience. Students should expect to commit a significant amount of energy and creative imagination towards making the maximum use of the time and opportunity.

CORE ELEMENTS

The following processes constitute the main educational components for Clinical Pastoral Education:

Inter-professional Team Work

One of the distinguishing features of CPE studies at VGH is the emphasis on the intern's involvement with the inter-professional team. All student interns are assigned to a team of physicians, nurses and allied health workers who meet regularly to discuss patient needs and progress. In this way the student learns about spiritual health as a part of holistic care.

Bedside Spiritual Care

Students interact with patients and families on the wards and gain experience for later reflection individually and in group

Verbatim Presentations and Case Studies

Students present reports of pastoral care encounters for discussion, analysis, and evaluation in a peer group setting.

Interpersonal Relationships Group (I.P.R.)

Students become self-aware through reflecting together face to face in a circle on how their attitudes, values and assumptions have affected their interactions with patients and others. Attention is also paid to the immediacy of the moment in group and the dynamics of interpersonal relationships between group members. A supportive yet challenging atmosphere is engendered in which mutual trust is based in honesty and a commitment to assisting with each others learning.

Didactic Seminars

The CPE supervisor and various resource persons lead didactic presentations from various fields within healthcare. These cover a broad range of issues related to spiritual Care.

Individual Supervisory Sessions

One on one conferences with the teaching supervisor that provide the student an opportunity for reflection on personal and professional goals.

Individual Study

Individual reflection and preparation of reflective documents as well as some reading and some integrative analysis of material.

CREDIT AND TUITION

- **Credit**

- All students earn credit with the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC) and each unit is registered with the Vancouver School of Theology. These credits are often used fulfill requirements for ordination, related masters degrees, and/or continuing education.

- **Tuition**

- Tuition for a single unit of Clinical Pastoral Education is \$2,000 plus a 200 CASC fee.

- **Calendar Term**

- Extended units run from Sept - April with a commitment of approx 14 hrs per week.
- Intensive Units run from the 4th week of April - mid July

ADMITTANCE TO THE PROGRAM

Admission requirements for basic units include the completion of a CPE application form, as well as passing an interview with the CPE supervisor. A standard criminal records search is also required before students can participate in the clinical aspects of the program. Once approved for admission to the unit, registration at Vancouver School of Theology as a 'special' student completes the admittance process.

Students seeking advanced standing must meet the requirements outlined in the CASC manual. No religious affiliation is required for enrollment in CPE units.

STAFF

Rev. Doug Longstaffe, MDiv, STM is the profession leader and CPE supervisor for VCH. Doug completed his graduate degrees at The Vancouver School of Theology and The University of Winnipeg. He has worked in Spiritual Care for over 20 years. In his early career Doug worked as a school teacher and then as an ordained minister with the United Church of Canada. Since then, Doug's professional experience has included Spiritual Care appointments as a front line chaplain, department director, and coordinator of education in as diverse settings as Corrections, Mental Health and Acute Care in the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and BC. He is a certified Teaching Supervisor with the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care. Doug is known for his work with Spiritual Care advocacy across Canada. In addition to Doug, spiritual care practitioners on staff at VGH may be assigned as mentors to augment the educational experience. During certain years Doug may be training a provisional supervisor. This further enriches the program as both Doug and the provisional supervisor work together as a team.

SCHEDULE AND UNIT DESIGN

Fall/Winter Extended Unit

Vancouver General Hospital offers an Extended Unit of CPE with a schedule designed to meet the needs of students who are taking other coursework, working part time or in a flexible full time position. The unit typically runs from the third week of Sept to the first week of April. For 2015 group sessions will be on Tuesdays with the first class being Tues, Sept 15, from 4pm-8pm. Time slots for individual supervisory sessions and ward assignments will depend upon the schedule of each hospital ward as well as each student's availability. Students are expected to average 8 hours per week on the hospital wards, to be delivered on 2 separate 1/2 days each week between 8 am and 6 pm Monday – Friday. This time is spent, providing bedside spiritual care and attending inter-professional team meetings. Average weekly commitment on site for all functions will normally total 12 hours. All advanced

students and basic students who are deemed to have sufficient competencies may also provide a week of on call after hour service. Students enrolled in intercession are not required to be at the hospital for the week of Jan VST Intensives. December holidays, as well as spring and fall reading weeks will be observed for group sessions but students remaining in the city may elect to continue ward visitations in order to reach their 200 clinical hour requirement as long as the supervisor is on site. During the first two week of classes there will be some additional group session times negotiated in addition to the regularly scheduled group times in order to prepare students for the wards. The application deadline is, August 30th, 2013. The tuition and CASC total combined fee of \$2,200.00 is payable in advance to VST. For further information, or to make application, contact the CPE supervisor listed below. Application forms cannot be processed until after a screening interview is conducted by the supervisor at VGH.

Spring/Summer Intensive Unit

A spring/summer intensive unit is also offered most years. An intensive unit involves a commitment of 40hrs per week on site over the course of 12 weeks. These units usually begin in the last week of April and run until mid July. There are no breaks except for statutory holidays. The content and design of the unit is the same as the fall/winter unit described above despite its being condensed into a 12 week period of time. The application deadline is March 30th. Credit fir an intensive unit is the same as for an extended. The tuition and CASC total combined fee of \$2,200.00 is payable in advance to VST. For further information, or to make application, contact the CPE supervisor listed below. Application forms cannot be processed until after a screening interview is conducted by the supervisor at VGH.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS CONTACT
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