

CPE FAQs

1. Do I qualify for CPE?

If you have a bachelor's degree and some theological training, you would qualify for our Intern and Extended Programs. These programs are attended by many seminarians who are often required to have one unit for their graduate education. An MDiv or other theological master's degree is preferred for our Resident Program but is not mandatory. In addition, a unit of CPE is also preferred for the Residency Program since this demonstrates readiness.

2. Where can I download an application?

You can download an ACPE application form from www.acpe.edu.

3. The application says I should submit a report from a screening interview with my application materials. Is this required?

Our Center does not require a pre-screening interview to apply for our programs.

4. Where can I locate information on your current offerings?

Please contact Rachel Smith, CPE Administrative Assistant, at 512-324-2120 or by email at rbsmith@ascension.org for information on our current programs.

5. Is there a stipend?

Our Resident and Certified Educator Training Programs offer stipends plus employee benefits and mileage reimbursement for any driving done while working an on-call shift. Please see the program flier for specifics. We do not offer stipends for our Intern or Extended Programs.

6. Do you offer a 2nd year Resident Program?

We do not currently offer a 2nd year Resident Program. You may be able to find a CPE center offering a 2nd year residency program through the ACPE, Inc. web site at www.acpe.edu.

7. Do you have any openings in your Certified Educator Training Program ?

We do not currently have an opening in our Certified Educator Program. For information on admission into the ACPE Certified Educator Program please refer to Admission to the Ascension Seton Certified Educator Process.

8. What is a typical work-week for the part-time Extended Program?

The Extended Program is (26 weeks) in duration, where students will complete at least 300 hours of clinical time and a 100 hours of education, requirements for earning one unit of CPE. Currently, CPE class time is held one day a week in the afternoons usually from 12:30 – 4:30pm. Externs are required to work on average eight (8) clinical hours per week in the hospital. It is possible for a couple of those hours to be outside the typical work day, but it is

encouraged that the majority of the eight hours be within normal business hours when Staff Chaplains are available to work alongside you. In addition to the eight hours per week, Externs complete a total of eight (8) on-call shifts, (5) week days and three (3) weekends on dates of their choosing throughout the six-month program.

In addition to the regular extended unit, the program offers an Extended J-Term Unit if there is sufficient interest and faculty is available. This unit allows seminary students to participate in a shorter concentrated January to May program. Students meet for classes Monday through Friday in January and spend time providing pastoral care at their clinical assignment when not in class. After January, students meet in the afternoon once a week for classes and average eight (8) hours per week of clinical time in addition to on-call coverage.

9. As a CPE Student, in which Ascension Seton facility will I work?

Ascension Seton CPE Students have opportunities to work in the following seven hospitals:

- Ascension Seton Medical Center Austin
- Dell Seton Medical Center at The University of Texas
- Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas
- Ascension Seton Williamson
- Ascension Seton Hays
- Ascension Seton Shoal Creek

Taking into consideration clinical coverage, Clinical placements are determined by the CPE Educators at the beginning of each program. Residents normally work two units at one facility and then move to another hospital for the final two units. This offers CPE Residents a more diverse clinical experience. Interns and Externs are assigned to one hospital for their clinical assignment during their tenure.

10. How does on-call work?

Weekday on-call shifts start at 5:00pm and end at 8:00am the following morning. Weekend shifts begin at 8:00am concluding at 8:00am the following morning. On weekday evenings, students are required to stay in the anchor hospital from 5:00pm to 8 am the following morning handling any referrals that may come in from other hospitals in their on-call group. On the weekends, students are required to be in-house from 8am to 8am the following morning. CPE Students are given post on-call time off to offset the additional hours worked. More details about on-calls will be given during new student orientation

11. How many hospitals would I cover while working an on-call shift?

For on-call duties our hospital system is divided into two on-call groups. Each group of four hospitals is associated with an anchor hospital either Dell Seton Medical Center at the University of Texas or Ascension Seton Medical Center Austin. Residents while on-call respond to emergencies at all four of the hospitals associated with their anchor hospital. Intern and Extern students only respond to calls from their anchor hospital. On-call group assignments may change during the year for residents while interns and externs will be assigned to only one on-call group during their tenure. Both anchor hospitals have on-call sleep rooms provided for students.

12. Are there other CPE Centers in Austin?

Ascension Seton is one of two ACPE accredited centers in Austin. The other ACPE accredited center is the Seminary of the Southwest. For more ACPE accredited centers in the area refer to the www.acpe.edu.

13. Do I have to be ordained?

No, you do not have to be ordained to take CPE. Depending on the requirement of your denomination, earning a unit may be part of the ordination process.

14. Do you have any scholarships available?

Currently we do not offer scholarships.

15. Can I earn financial aid for tuition?

Please contact FAFSA Federal Student Aid to determine whether you would qualify for financial aid. You may learn more at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.

16. Do you assist in finding housing?

We do not assist with housing. Please refer to local real estate listings for housing details.

17. Am I required to have a vehicle?

Yes, a vehicle will be necessary for driving to the various hospitals during the day and on-call shifts.

More FAQs regarding Clinical Pastoral Education can be found at:

www.acpe.edu