CPE Frequently Asked Questions

What is CPE?

CPE stands for Clinical Pastoral Education. CPE allows ministers to get hands-on, intensive pastoral training. For McAfee students, an approved CPE program must be accredited by the **Association for Clinical Pastoral Education.** You can find more information about the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education at http://www.acpe.edu.

Who can take CPE?

Any student can complete a unit of CPE for McAfee credit.

Pastoral Care Tract are required to take complete one unit. Students in the Dual Degree with Mental Health Counseling are required to complete two units.

All CPE units are worth six hours.

What is a unit of CPE?

One unit of CPE constitutes 400 hours. Most of these hours will be clinical hours of hand-on pastoral care. The other hours will be peer group discussion, verbatim presentations, and didactic groups.

What is the time commitment involved?

A ten-week unit is a commitment of about 40 hours a week. The weekly time commitment in an extended unit varies. It is recommended that students have a lighter load of classes during the time they are enrolled in CPE. Before agreeing to participate in any program, you should be clear about the scheduling and time commitments.

What happens in CPE?

In CPE, the student will have clinical hours of hands-on pastoral care. There will also be weekly group meetings with other CPE students in your program. These group meetings consist of conceptual learning as well as report of what's going on.

The CPE student will learn about their own strengths, weaknesses, "triggers", etc. in clinical and group time. You will integrate your personal experiences, ministerial experiences, and theological education into the learning process.

In addition to the regular schedule, some CPE units require weekend or overnight on-call shifts that count for clinical hours.

Students are asked to write verbatims, evaluations, learning goals, and meet with individually with their supervisor on a regular basis. Some sites ask students to read books or write papers related to their learning goals.

Can I take other classes during CPE?

Yes, but it is recommended that you carefully consider the time commitments of your site and class requirements. CPE can be emotionally and physically draining, so it it important that you do not over extend yourself during this important time of learning.

How much does CPE cost?

Cost differs depending on your CPE site. Many sites require an application fee as well as a program fee. McAfee will pay up to $250 of your program fee, and you are responsible for the rest. If you wish to obtain class credit for the CPE, you are responsible for paying the required tuition for six hours.

What is the procedure for getting into a CPE program?

1. Check the ACPE website for information regarding sites and current programs.
2. Talk to McAfee students who have completed or are currently enrolled in CPE to get first-hand information.
3. Contact various CPE centers (websites, phone, e-mail) you are interested in to find out the most up to date information and application instructions.
4. Complete CPE application. It can be found online at the ACPE website.
5. Turn in application by site's preferred method.
6. The site will contact you for an interview.
7. Once accepted, make sure you are clear about the program requirements and schedules before agreeing to participate.
8. Turn in signed CPE Intent Form in the CPE syllabus on the McAfee website to Dr. Denise Massey.

How do I get class credit for CPE?

You can receive six hours class credit for each unit of CPE. In order to obtain credit, you will register for CPE in the semester you will be completing the unit. You will also sign a CPE intent Form and give it to Dr. Massey.

When you have completed your unit, you will give Dr. Massey a copy of a final evaluation that you write at the end of your CPE process. Your CPE site will give you more information about the format of this evaluation.

Dr. Massey will also receive a copy of the final evaluation that your supervisor completes for you. (Speak with your supervisor to determine if they will send the evaluation or if you will.)

Often, the evaluations will not be ready before grades are due. In this case, you will receive an *Incomplete* that Dr. Massey will change to *Pass/Fail* upon review of your evaluations.

Where can I get more information about CPE?

- ACPE website: www.acpe.edu
- McAfee School of Theology website, current students section
- E-mail Dr. Massey with general questions
- Call/e-mail places with specific information
- Talk to current students