

Question: Does your diocese require seminarians to do a C.P.E. (Clinical Pastoral Education) course for hospital ministry, or has another program or course been adopted to fulfill this aspect of pastoral and human formation?

The Diocese of Las Vegas

Of the two seminaries we are currently using, one of them requires a CPE as part of its formation program; the other does not, but will facilitate one, should the diocese require it. We are of the opinion that all of our seminarians should experience a CPE - regardless of the seminary requirements. While CPE programs may vary in quality, I don't believe any other program or course can quite substitute for a good CPE program, to prepare one for hospital, as well as other pastoral ministries.

The Diocese of Sioux City

In regarding to the survey question, the Diocese of Sioux City only requires CPE of students who study at St. Meinrad seminary, which is a seminary requirement of that particular program.

The Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon

Yes. Our guys are required to attend a summer course of C.P.E. This is done the summer after their Pastoral Year (which is in-between Theology II and III). It works well here because guys can apply during their Pastoral Year (it is recommended to begin applying by Thanksgiving of the previous year) as sometimes they need to apply to multiple programs and the application process can be a bit burdensome. It is the responsibility of the seminarian to research which program they would like to attend and arrange housing. It must be a A.C.P.E. program (accredited).

The Diocese of Austin

All of our men are required to do CPE

The Diocese of Fargo

We have only our seminarians at St. Paul Seminary taking their Spiritual Pastoral Ministry program.

The Diocese of Orlando

For us, it is more of a requirement from the Seminary rather than from the Diocese.

The Diocese of Savannah

We do not require every seminarian to do CPE, but most of them do complete it. The main seminary we use for theology is Saint Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida, and the seminary requires that every seminarian complete CPE during the summer after second theology. The seminary prepares them throughout second theology through both pastoral care classes and hospital apostolates.

Our seminarians do CPE at a local hospital in Savannah. It is a mixed experience, some really enjoy it, others struggle. It is not a Catholic hospital and the participants are diverse. There are usually only five or six participants total in the program with two or three of them being seminarians. Despite some struggles, the seminarians appreciate the experience and learn much both about hospital work and themselves.

The Archdiocese of San Francisco

The Archdiocese of San Francisco only requires a rotation in hospital ministry during one year of theology, not CPE.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans

Yes our seminarians do a CPE the summer after 2nd Theology.

The Archdiocese of Chicago

Yes, we require CPE.

The Byzantine Eparchy of Phoenix

We started having our sems do a CPE a couple years ago. Before that we just set up a 2 year, one afternoon a week program with a local hospital.

The Archdiocese of San Antonio

We do require a CPE style experience (usually the summer after 2nd Theology). Most guys do CPE, but a couple have done alternatives. Here locally, University Hospital runs their own spiritual care program for ministers in training (interfaith), which invites our seminarians (the director is a Catholic). We've also had the situation where some of our seminarians have already done clinical ministry before in hospitals, nursing homes, or hospice care facilities. In those cases they ask for a different kind of experience. We have a local county jail with a wonderful chaplaincy department run by Daughters of Charity. We have placed seminarians there for a summer unit of formation in ministry to the incarcerated. It has been successful.

The Diocese of Providence

We do not have the seminarians go through CPE or another formal program. However, generally they will each be assigned to one of the hospital chaplains during the summer so that they will work closely with the chaplain in one of the hospitals in our diocese and receive pastoral formation in the care of the sick.

The Diocese of Rockford

We do not require our seminarians to do a CPE Course, but if it's a must at seminary they are attending then we let them.