



Supervised Pastoral Education in Alberta

Supervised Pastoral Education (SPE) programs are referred to as Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and Pastoral Counselling Education (PCE). All such programs are approved and accredited by the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC/ACSS), which is also the body that credentials Certified Spiritual Care Practitioners, Certified Psycho-Spiritual Therapists, Certified Spiritual Care Supervisor-Educators, and Certified Psycho-Spiritual Therapist Supervisor-Educators.

In the province of Alberta SPE programs have typically operated inside health facilities or designated counselling agencies. As the scope of spiritual care practice broadens and professionalizes, there is need for re-envisioning Alberta's SPE infrastructure. A recommended "new home" for SPE is graduate theological colleges and seminaries in partnership with practicum placement institutions, agencies, and faith communities.

Some FAQs about SPE

What is SPE? Supervised Pastoral Education is an experience-based approach to learning spiritual care and spiritually integrated psychotherapy which combines direct care with qualified supervision and group reflection. SPE is normally conducted in an inter-disciplinary context where the insights of various professions promote creative dialogue and where co-operation is encouraged with other workers and agencies serving the community. Programs of SPE are open to people who are interested in pursuing professions/vocations in spiritual care and spiritually integrated psychotherapy. CPE is often taken as part of a person's initial formation, with both CPE and PCE taken for professional development.

What types of SPE are offered? There are two types of SPE. Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) teaches the knowledge and skills related to spiritual care and focuses on such professions as chaplaincy, faith community leadership, spiritual direction, and institutional leadership. Pastoral Counselling Education (PCE) teaches the knowledge and skills related to spiritually integrated psychotherapy and focuses on therapeutic modalities in counselling individuals, couples/partners, and families. **Currently, only CPE programs are being offered in Alberta.**

Who can take CPE or PCE? Anyone who has completed a baccalaureate degree can apply for programs of SPE. Considered to be graduate level education, programs of CPE and PCE are usually assigned six (6) academic credits within Alberta Theological Colleges. The process of admission is competitive, however, and not all who apply will be selected for SPE learning. **NOTE: Currently only CPE programs are being offered in Alberta.**

Contact Information

Who do I contact if I'm interested in CPE? The best source of information about SPE is a CASC/ACSS Certified (CSE) or Provisional (PSE) Supervisor-Educator. There are two Intake Supervisor-Educators in Alberta designated to answer your questions and provide information about current as well as planned programs:

- **Philip Behman, CSE, Alberta Health Services, CALGARY & SOUTH:**
Philip.Behman@albertahealthservices.ca
- **Darlene Pranke, PSE, St. Stephen's College, EDMONTON & NORTH:**
Darlene.Pranke@covenanthealth.ca

Information is also available through Hospital Training Programs, Alberta Health Services (<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/services/page13213.aspx>).