

The Interfaith spiritual care practitioners' role is to support patients and families spiritually and emotionally, in whatever ways are most helpful to them.

This often takes the form of providing supportive presence and empathetic listening, while assisting persons to explore their feelings and thoughts about their illness from the perspective of their own spiritual orientation.

We have partnered with the Vancouver School of Theology (VST), so that students are able to take a Master's degree in Public and Pastoral Leadership (PPL) in Spiritual Care with CPE units as part of it, and with Regent College in their Masters of Divinity program.

Subsequent to completing all CPE units students may apply for a specialization fellowship that includes a stipend.



**Spiritual Care and  
Multifaith Services**  
*Spirited Leadership –  
Humanizing Encounters*



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### Schedule:

Currently, part-time units run from September to March and full-time units from May to mid July.  
A CPE Admissions interview is required.

## Clinical Psycho-Spiritual Education (CPE)

**Vancouver  
CoastalHealth**





Clinical Psycho-Spiritual Education (CPE) is an experiential action/reflection model that blends clinical teaching methods with spiritual approaches. It has existed since the 1920s.

The teaching program at Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is fully accredited by the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC), the only certifying body for CPE in Canada.

We have been teaching both basic and advanced levels of CPE through our Spiritual Care and Multifaith Services Department for 5 decades.

*"nothing changes until it becomes what it is" – CG Jung*

### **The CPE Model**

In an action/reflection model, students apply learnings gleaned from studies but an even stronger emphasis is placed on learning from interactions with patients and peers. Self-awareness is pivotal to the whole process. Individual supervision, group work and patient encounters form the back bone of this dynamic model.

### **The Nature of Spirituality & Spiritual Care**

Spirituality refers to that dimension of the human person that provides a sense of meaning and purpose as well as feelings of connectedness to a transcendent power. For some, spirituality is closely entwined with their religious beliefs and practices, while for others it is not.

### **Spiritual Care at VCH Facilities**

Spiritual Care in a hospital, long term care centre, clinic or home hospice, is largely about assisting patients within their own worldview to access internal and external spiritual supports that can help them face the personal crisis of serious illness, trauma, or dying. Frequent themes that arise for patients often involve such matters as anxiety, loss, confusion, hope and faith.

We serve all patients and families regardless of race colour, creed, sexual orientation or gender identity. Student interns are treated with similar respect. Interns learn to provide care in a safe manner across all cultures and religions.

### **CPE Professional Training**

After completion of two basic units and one advanced unit, a student having an acceptable Master's degree can apply for Spiritual Care Practitioner positions in B.C. public health facilities and correctional centres.

Students can also work as a Chaplain in faith based care facilities. These institutions may have slightly different standards.

### **Who should take CPE?**

CPE is frequently described by students as life changing or transformative. As such, its benefits are not only for those seeking a career in Spiritual Care but also for parish clergy or lay people in a master's degree program seeking to deepen their ministry to their local congregation.

### **A distinct program of excellence**

Our motto, Spirited Leadership-Humanizing Encounters, is a daily lived reality in our department. Our Clinical Pastoral Education program is known across Canada for its innovation and creativity. In 2018 we won a national award of Excellence from the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC) and in 2022 our local innovations in curriculum design were purchased for use across Canada. Each component of our CPE program is intentionally connected to specific values and rooted in thoughtful rationale. With five CPE supervisors on staff, we have the ability to maximize learning experiences through contextual team work.

