

Preliminary Musings – Rubric for Certification
Clinical Chaplain/Pastoral Counselor*

Candidates for certification must present the following documents in support of their application:

- A comprehensive autobiographical sketch (§720.1)
- Two case studies demonstrating recent clinical work (§720.2)
- A comprehensive theory paper of sufficient length to demonstrate the integration of personal, professional, and clinical competencies (§710), addressing theory and theology of pastoral care and counseling (§720.3)
- Documented accountability to the candidate's faith community, or endorsement, as pastoral clinician (§720.4, referencing §610.3)

The comprehensive autobiographical sketch (§720.1) demonstrates the candidate's

- Ability **to reflect** deeply on core themes in the theology and ethos of one's own belief system– for Associate Clinical Chaplain/Pastoral Counselor, **to apply** and **analyze** (§710.2.1.1), and for Clinical Chaplain/Pastoral Counselor, to **synthesize** and **evaluate** critically (§710.2.1.2), core themes in the theology and ethos of this belief system, with reference to pastoral care.
- Ability **to analyze** the nature and quality of religious symbols and spiritual values from a wide variety of theological and cultural perspectives (§710.2.2)
- Further, it should “evidence successful engagement with the learning methodology and achievement of the objectives of Clinical Pastoral Training (§240),” as follows:
 - “Development of the self as a work in progress, and understanding of the self as the principal tool in pastoral care and counseling. This includes the ability **to reflect** and **interpret** one's own life story both psychologically and theologically (§240.2).”
 - “Demonstration of...theological reflection and...a critical eye so as to **examine** and **evaluate** human behavior and religious symbols for their meaning and significance (§240.4).”
 - “Demonstrated ability to make a pastoral diagnosis with special reference to the nature and quality of religious values (§240.5).”
 - “Demonstrated ability to provide a critical analysis of one's own religious tradition (§240.6).”
 - “Demonstration of increasing leadership ability and personal authority (§240.12).”

* All references are from *The Standards of the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy*.

The level of learning expressed for each competency reflects the use of Bloom's taxonomy; verbs noted in *red* have precise meanings which should be considered in evaluating written work.

The two case studies demonstrating recent clinical work (§720.2) demonstrate the candidate's clinical competence, as evidenced by:

- Ability to *screen*, *assess*, and *diagnose* the needs of persons and groups from a clinical/pastoral/spiritual perspective (§710.1.1).
- Ability to relate effectively to diverse persons and groups in their crisis, distress, loss, grief, or perplexity (§710.1.2).
- Ability to *reflect* deeply on core themes in the theology and ethos of one's own belief system (§710.2.1) – for Associate Clinical Chaplain/Pastoral Counselor, to *apply* and *analyze* (§710.2.1.1), and for Clinical Chaplain/Pastoral Counselor, to *synthesize* and *evaluate* critically (§710.2.1.2) core themes in the theology and ethos of this belief system, with reference to pastoral care.
- Ability to *analyze* the nature and quality of religious symbols and spiritual values from a wide variety of theological and cultural perspectives (§710.2.2).
- Ability to *articulate* and *apply* consistently in personal and professional functioning the principles of *The CPSP Code of Professional Ethics* (§710.4).
- Case studies “should “evidence successful engagement with the learning methodology and achievement of the objectives of Clinical Pastoral Training (§240),” as follows:
 - “Demonstrated ability to make use of the clinical process and the clinical method of learning. This includes the formulation of clinical data, the ability to receive and utilize feedback and consultation, and to make creative use of supervision (§240.1).”
 - “Development of the self as a work in progress, and understanding of the self as the principal tool in pastoral care and counseling (§240.2).”
 - “Demonstrated ability to establish a pastoral bond with persons and groups in various life situations and crisis circumstances (§240.3).”
 - “Demonstration of basic care and counseling, including listening, empathy, reflection, analysis of problems, conflict resolution, theological reflection and the demonstration of a critical eye so as to examine and evaluate human behavior and religious symbols for their meaning and significance (§240.4).”
 - “Demonstrated ability to make a pastoral diagnosis with special reference to the nature and quality of religious values (§240.5).”
 - “Demonstrated ability to provide a critical analysis of one's own religious tradition (§240.6).”

- “Demonstrated understanding of the dynamics of group behavior and the variety of group experiences...(**§240.7**).”
- “Demonstrated ability to communicate and engage in ministry with persons across cultural boundaries (**§240.8**).”
- “developing the capacity to evaluate one’s ministry...(**§240.9**).”
- “Demonstrated ability to work as a pastoral member on an interdisciplinary team (**§240.10**).”
- “Demonstrated ability to make effective use of the behavioral sciences in pastoral ministry (**§240.11**).”
- “Demonstration of increasing leadership ability and personal authority (**§240.12**).”

*The level of learning expressed for each competency reflects the use of Bloom’s taxonomy; verbs noted in **red** have precise meanings which should be considered in evaluating written work.*

The comprehensive theory paper (§720.3) demonstrates the candidate’s integration of personal, professional, and clinical competencies (**§710**), addressing theory and theology of pastoral care and counseling

- Development, integration, and articulation of a consistent theory and practice of clinical pastoral care
 - incorporating insights from the behavioral and social sciences
 - Familiarity with a bibliography that informs and supports one’s clinical practice (**§710.3.2**)
- Demonstrated ability to reflect deeply on core themes in the theology and ethos of one’s own belief system (**§710.2.1**)
 - (For Associate Clinical Chaplain/Pastoral Counselor) Ability to apply and analyze core themes in the theology and ethos of this belief system, with reference to pastoral care.
 - (For Clinical Chaplain/Pastoral Counselor) Ability to synthesize and evaluate critically core themes in the theology and ethos of this belief system, with reference to pastoral care.
- **710.2.2** Ability to analyze the nature and quality of religious symbols and spiritual values from a wide variety of theological and cultural perspectives.

- The theory paper “should “evidence successful engagement with the learning methodology and achievement of the objectives of Clinical Pastoral Training (§240),” as follows:
 - “Demonstrated ability to make use of the clinical process and the clinical method of learning...(§240.1).”
 - “...understanding of the self as the principal tool in pastoral care and counseling (§240.2).”
 - “...theological reflection and the demonstration of a critical eye so as to examine and evaluate human behavior and religious symbols for their meaning and significance (§240.4).”
 - “Demonstrated ability to provide a critical analysis of one’s own religious tradition (§240.6).”
 - “Demonstrated understanding of the dynamics of group behavior and the variety of group experiences...(§240.7).”
 - “Demonstrated familiarity with the basic literature of the field: clinical, behavioral, and theological (§240.13).”

Documented accountability (§720.4) to the candidate’s faith community takes the form of ecclesiastical endorsement (in faith communities that offer endorsement); in other traditions, the approval should come from a suitable authority generally accepted by members of that faith.