



Doctor of Theology Degree in Chaplaincy (DTH-CH)

The Doctor of Theology degree in Chaplaincy is a professional doctorate for experienced professionals who want to translate their expertise into a higher position of credibility, leadership, and influence within the profession.

The DTh in Chaplaincy program combines taught components with independent research in a student's area of expertise. This is achieved by with advanced research skills and specialist knowledge in their area of expertise, so they have not only the ability but also the confidence to facilitate change at a corporate level. The fundamental difference between a PhD and a professional doctorate is that while PhDs teach students how to conduct research to create new knowledge that improves the understanding of a field, a professional doctorate teaches a student how to evaluate, synthesize and apply existing knowledge in novel ways to a field.

The Chaplaincy doctoral program allows students to:

- Assess the current state of knowledge within professional chaplaincy
- Develop expertise in a particular area of professional chaplaincy, such as care to a particular community, spiritual assessment, ethics, or other practice area.
- Learn about and use research methods.
- Advocate for changes that support clients, organizations, and community through an action research project. This project enables you to focus on an everyday problem or unmet need and develop a plan for remediating the issue.
- Expand the body of knowledge within professional chaplaincy through their research findings.
- Conduct effective analyses of chaplaincy processes and policies.
- Gain skills for designing and implementing programs within chaplaincy departments.

Students will participate in courses, assignments with deadlines, and the opportunity to learn with like-minded professionals. The Program ends with the student writing a dissertation that identifies a topic within chaplaincy, investigates it through research, and proposes practical solutions for implementation. This involves undertaking experiments, collecting results and documenting the process. In addition, general suggestions are made as to how others in their field can practically use the research findings, and other problem areas may be identified for future investigation.

Doctorate-level courses combine taught components with independent research in a student's area of expertise. Students will be challenged and encouraged to utilize specialist knowledge and advanced research skills in each course to evaluate, synthesize, and apply their learning to the field of professional chaplaincy.

Prerequisite: Master's degree

Academic Requirements: 60 credits total

6 elective courses (10 x 3 credits)	18 credits
1 required course: DD422 Doctoral Project and Dissertation Writing	3 credits
The Doctoral Project and Dissertation Writing course aims to foster the development of the core knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to construct a dissertation. In this course learners will be guided through a step by step process of preparing to write a dissertation, writing the Introduction, Literature Review, Methods, Results, and Discussion sections of a dissertation, and will also partake in giving peer feedback and editing and revising each section they have produced. Various tools will also be introduced and utilized which will aid in the entire dissertation construction process. Additionally, upon completion of this course, students seeking a doctorate will have laid the foundation for their dissertation.	
8 required graduate practicums (1600 hours CPE each) (8 x 3 credits)	24 credits
1 required capstone dissertation paper	15 credits

Required CPE Courses

The Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Practicum is designed to be flexible enough to allow practicum students the opportunity to sample from a variety of activities to meet their unique training needs. Students work with their CPE Supervisors and the Student Services at SCA UTS to design a training program that best suits their practicum training needs and still meets the needs of the CPE certifying bodies. Each practicum consists of 2 parts: A and B, each must be taken consecutively to complete the practicum.

- CPE521A Clinical Pastoral Education 1A/3 credits
- CPE521B Clinical Pastoral Education 1B/3 credits
- CPE522A Clinical Pastoral Education 2A/3 credits
- CPE522B Clinical Pastoral Education 2B/3 credits
- CPE523A Clinical Pastoral Education 3A/3 credits
- CPE523B Clinical Pastoral Education 3B/3 credits
- CPE524A Clinical Pastoral Education 4A/3 credits
- CPE524B Clinical Pastoral Education 4B/3 credits

Electives:

- **CH421 Facilitating Advance Care Planning/3 credits**
No prerequisite required. This course reviews advance directives, best practices in having conversations to facilitate their completion, and the opportunity to address research topics to increase the role of the chaplain in their completion.
- **CH422 Chaplaincy Care for Persons Living with Alzheimer's/3 credits**
No prerequisite required. This course reviews new concepts about Alzheimer's and other dementias and the opportunity to address research topics to formulate effective chaplaincy care and interventions. In this course, students will review the physical, emotional, and spiritual components of living with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's and address research topics to formulate effective chaplaincy care and interventions.
- **CH423 Strategies for Chaplaincy Integration/3 credits**
No prerequisite required. This course focuses on advocating for the inclusion of chaplaincy care and the development and implementation of policies, programs, and services to contribute to the organization as a whole. Emphasis is placed upon discovering and utilize research to enhance the overall productivity and sustainability of a chaplaincy department.
- **CH424 Improving the Effectiveness of Chaplaincy Care/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course reviews the basic concepts included in continuous quality improvement, Lean, and Six Sigma. Students will engage in the application of research and best practices to engage in projects within their organization that enhance the provision of chaplaincy care.

- **CH425 Brief Counseling Encounters 3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course provides knowledge and skills needed to address persons' needs, including the use of brief psychotherapeutic methods, psychological first aid, family systems theory, and grief counseling. Additionally, students will address research topics to enhance brief counseling encounters.

- **CH426 Health Care Delivery: Impact on Chaplaincy Care/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course examines the U.S. health care system with emphasis on current changes impacting how care is delivered and maintained. Emphasis is placed upon identifying, navigating, and responding to challenges and opportunities for the provision of chaplaincy care, and through applied research, students will identify methods to increase its integration.

- **CH427 Support of Those Who Grieve/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course examines evolving theories regarding grief with an emphasis on applied research into current theories, issues of spiritual distress, interventions, and outcomes within the provision of chaplaincy care.

- **CH428 Chaplaincy Contributions to Health Care Ethics/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course reviews the evolving ethical and moral challenges in health care with an emphasis on applying research to enhance chaplaincy care in light of diverse patient and family beliefs, values, cultures, and preferences in resolving conflicts and the role and contribution of chaplains as members of an ethics committee.

- **CH429 Chaplaincy Care with Children/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course identifies the distinctive issues of pediatric care for children and their families, with an emphasis on the unique spirituality of children. Through applied research, students will evaluate and apply specific tools to enhance the provision of chaplaincy interventions.

- **CH430 Improving Care for Perinatal Loss/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course identifies the unique issues of perinatal loss with an emphasis on discovering and applying research to identify and integrate specific best practices into chaplaincy care as part of an interdisciplinary team.

- **CH431 Developing and Implementing Spiritual Assessment Tools/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course identifies the major theories behind current practice of chaplaincy spiritual assessment and documentation. Students will engage in applied research to identify the most effective process for their setting as well as to contribute to the development and integration of new models.

- **CH432 End of Life Needs and Interventions/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course examines the spiritual, existential, and emotional aspects of the dying process through research, while providing students opportunities identify, develop, and integrate chaplaincy best practices, interventions, and outcomes to support persons and families. Through research opportunities, students will explore ways in which to apply theory to their clinical work and programs.

- **CH433 Compassion Fatigue, Burnout, and Vicarious Trauma/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course reviews the concepts of compassion fatigue, burnout, and vicarious trauma. Emphasis is placed upon discovering and utilize research to create and enhance effective chaplaincy interventions and programs.

- **CH434 Communication as Spiritual Care/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course emphasizes the importance and skill of communication with patients/clients, families, and other members of the interdisciplinary team as a core component of chaplaincy practice. Students will have the opportunity to apply research to improve and integrate processes including conflict resolution, negotiation, and goal clarification.

- **CH435 Fostering Diversity and Inclusion/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course reviews the necessity of applying the concepts of cultural competence and inclusion, particularly with vulnerable populations, to chaplaincy practice. Through opportunities to engage in research, students will evaluate and synthesize information for application to their clinical setting.

- **CH439 Issues of Privacy and Confidentiality in Chaplaincy Care/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course reviews the impact of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) upon chaplaincy practice. Students will utilize research methods to integrate the implications of HIPPA into effective individual and departmental chaplaincy practice.