



Master of Theology Degree in Chaplaincy (MTH-CH)

The Master of Theology in Chaplaincy degree provides students the skill set and knowledge to seek an appropriate level of professional certification to serve as a chaplain in a variety of settings including health care, the military, first response, business, corrections, and the community.

Coursework in the program are designed to combine theoretical and practical learning, emphasizing critical thinking, analysis of chaplaincy practice, and the reading and application of research.

The Chaplaincy master's program allows students to gain knowledge and skills related to::

- The current state of knowledge within professional chaplaincy, including philosophy, principles, and legal and ethical responsibilities.
- Various settings in which chaplains practice and the unique needs of those settings
- Introductory use application of research methods.
- Strategies to advocate for the role of chaplains.
- The design and implementation of chaplaincy programs and practices to facilitate integrated chaplaincy care to support clients, organizations, and communities.
- Communication and networking for personal and professional growth, collaboration, leadership, and change management.

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 thesis that identifies a topic within chaplaincy, investigates it through research, and proposes practical solutions for implementation.

Prerequisite: Bachelor's degree

Academic Requirements: 45 credits total

5 core courses (5 x 3 credits)	12 credits
5 elective courses (5 x 3 credits)	15 credits
4 required graduate practicums (800 hours CPE) (4 x 3 credits)	12 credits
1 required capstone thesis paper	6 credits

Required Core Courses: 15 credits

- **CH331 Spiritual Assessment and Documentation/3 credits**
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.
- **CH328 Health Care Ethics/3 credits**
This course reviews the 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.

- **CH327 Grief, Loss, and Bereavement/3 credits**

This course reviews the processes of grief with an emphasis on applied research into current theories, issues of spiritual distress, interventions, and outcomes within the provision of chaplaincy care.

- **CH338 Major Religious Traditions and Chaplaincy Care/3 credits**

This course provides an overview to the five major religious traditions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism as well as the growing population that refers to themselves as “nones” or “spiritual but not religious.” Emphasis is placed upon the beliefs, values, and practices that impact a person’s reaction to illness, trauma, end-of-life and other issues of spiritual distress.

- **MT321 Masters Project and Thesis Writing/3 credits**

This course aims to foster the development of the core knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to construct a thesis. In this course learners will be guided through a step by step process of preparing to write a thesis, writing the Introduction, Literature Review, Methods, Results, and Discussion sections of a thesis, 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 thesis construction process. Additionally, upon completion of this course, students seeking a doctorate will have laid the foundation for their thesis.

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 = 5 courses/15 credits

- **CH321 Advance Directives and Planning/3 credits**

Prerequisite: CH328 Counseling Skills This course addresses the characteristics of advance directives with special emphasis on best practices in having conversations with patients, families, and the other members of the health care team.

- **CH322 Alzheimer’s and Other Dementias/3 credits**

Prerequisite: CH331 Spiritual Assessment and Documentation . This course helps learners understand and apply concepts about dementia to their care of persons with Alzheimer’s disease and other conditions in which cognition, memory, and expression are impaired. It includes information on how impairment of cognition and memory may affect a person’s sense of identity, religious, spiritual, and existential experience.

- **CH323 Building and Maintaining a Chaplaincy Department/3 credits**

Prerequisite: CH324 Continuous Quality Improvement This course orients the student to the basics of building and maintaining a chaplaincy service in a health care institution. Building and maintaining a chaplaincy department is the core responsibility of chaplain directors, managers, and other leaders. This module addresses the basics involved to develop a department, whether as a new director or one who wishes to ensure that the department enhances the work of chaplaincy, contributes to the organization, and meets regulatory guidelines. Through a step-by-step process, the module provides the student with resources and samples of the details to be addressed, including planning and implementation. For staff chaplains, the module serves as an introduction to the many components that are essential in an effective chaplaincy department.

- **CH324 Continuous Quality Improvement/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. Continuous Quality Improvement within Chaplaincy and Health Care is designed to enable learners to be a full participant in CQI processes and establish and sustain a CQI program for a chaplaincy or spiritual care service using Lean and Six Sigma. Students learn CQI's underlying assumptions, language, and processes. Students learn how to set up and run simple Lean or Six Sigma projects and avoid the most common mistakes in this process. Examples from hospital practice will be provided.

- **CH325 Counseling Skills/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course provides the learner with crucial background and skills practice to better attend to those under their care's psychological needs through brief psychotherapeutic methods, psychological first aid, family systems theory, and grief counseling.

- **CH326 Delivery and Continuity of Care/3 credits**

Prerequisite: CH335 Cultural Competence, Inclusion, and Vulnerable Populations. This course guides the learner through an overview of health care delivery and continuity of care with information, activities, and resources to increase understanding of the United States system. It will also encourage the learner to consider how chaplaincy and spiritual care is, is not, or can be delivered and continued throughout a person's experience and health care journey. Learners will be provided with opportunities to articulate their new knowledge and consider practical ways to integrate it into their scope of practice, provision of care, best practices, protocols, and consideration for quality improvement and research projects.

- **CH329 Pediatric Chaplaincy Care/3 credits**

Prerequisites: CH331 Spiritual Assessment and Documentation and CH327 Grief, Loss, and Bereavement This course introduces some of the unique issues of providing chaplaincy and spiritual care to children and their families, especially for chaplains and other spiritual care providers assigned primarily to adult care settings and only occasionally interact professionally with children.

- **CH330 Perinatal Loss/3 credits**

Prerequisites: CH331 Spiritual Assessment and Documentation and CH327 Grief, Loss, and Bereavement This course introduces the learner to all aspects of newborn death, including etiology and epidemiology, ritual, best psychosocial caregiving practices, and the effects on parents, siblings, grandparents, and society. Chaplains and spiritual care providers are in the unique position of serving as mediators and facilitators in the interaction with and care for patients, families, and staff when spiritual, religious, existential, and cultural issues arise in perinatal loss.

- **CH332 Spiritual Care at the End of Life/3 credits**

Prerequisite: CH327 Grief, Loss, and Bereavement. This course addresses the various aspects of end-of-life care, including the dying process and physiological changes, advance care planning, and conflicts between dying persons and families, palliative care, and hospice. Issues of emotional and spiritual, religious, and existential distress will be identified and appropriate interventions, cultural, religious, spiritual, and existential practices, and care of the family.

- **CH333 Supporting the Interdisciplinary Team/3 credits**
 Prerequisite: CH325 Counseling Skills. This course focuses on why chaplains and spiritual care providers should intentionally emphasize care for staff. Topics include how chaplains can create a calming and peaceful presence amidst what is often a chaotic and intense clinical environment and providing rituals that will be meaningful to staff who are of different religions and none. Compassion fatigue, burnout, vicarious trauma, and moral injury will all be defined and discussed as it relates to employees working in healthcare as well as specific programs and interventions chaplains and spiritual care providers can use when working with staff.
- **CH334 Powerful Communication Techniques/3 credits**
 No prerequisite required. This course covers listening skills and methods, effective verbal and non-verbal practices, group communication, conflict resolution, negotiation, and goal clarification.
- **CH335 Cultural Competence, Inclusion, and Vulnerable Populations/3 credits**
 No prerequisite required. This course addresses self-awareness and the professional ability to assess, document, and provide interventions so that persons' beliefs, values, and practices are integrated into their plan of care. This course reviews the needs of vulnerable patient populations, including persons who are non-resident aliens, LGBTQ, homeless, incarcerated, low health literate, and mentally disabled.
- **CH339 HIPAA Compliance/3 credits**
 No prerequisite required. This course gives a history of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), focuses on its implications of HIPAA for the health care industry, health care chaplains, and spiritual care providers, and patients.