



Master of Theology Degree in Spiritual Care (MTH-SC)

The Master of Theology in Spiritual Care degree provides students the skill set and knowledge to seek integrate concepts of spirituality and spiritual care into their professional practice 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 spiritual care concepts and practice, and the reading and application of research.

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

- The current state of knowledge regarding the provision of spiritual care, including philosophy, principles, and legal and ethical responsibilities of providers.
- Various settings in which spiritual care can be integrated into practice and the unique needs of those settings
- Introductory use application of research methods.
- Strategies to advocate for the role of spiritual care providers.
- The design and implementation of spiritual care 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 spiritual care, investigates it through research, and proposes practical solutions for implementation.

Prerequisite: Bachelor's degree

Academic Requirements MTH-SC: 45 credits total

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

Required Core Courses:

- **SC321 Advance Directives and Spiritual Care/3 credits**
This course examines the spiritual dimensions of completing advance directives and best practices to facilitate the inclusion of person's beliefs and values into the decision-making process.
- **SC334 Essential Communication for Spiritual Care Providers/3 credits**

This course emphasizes the importance of understanding and integrating communication theory and practice into the provision of spiritual care.

- **SC335 Integration of Spiritual Care in Cultural Awareness/3 credits**
No prerequisite required. This course reviews the concepts of cultural diversity with an emphasis on the spiritual care issues that emerge including spiritual strengths and distress and ways in which to provide appropriate and effective spiritual care interventions.
- **SC338 Spiritual Care with Diverse Traditions/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 and opportunities for spiritual care.
- **MT321 Masters Project and Thesis Writing/3 credits**
The Masters Project and Thesis Writing 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

Electives - Elective courses/12 credits

- **SC322 Spiritual Care Amid Alzheimer’s/3 credits**
Prerequisite: SC331 Spiritual Screening, History, and Assessment. This course assists learners in understanding dementia and 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 and appropriate spiritual care interventions.
- **SC324 Continuous Quality Improvement Within Spiritual Care/3 credits**
Prerequisite: SC335 Integration of Spiritual Care in Cultural Awareness. Spiritual care is often desired by persons and family caregivers and impacts important outcomes in health and well-being. This course explores the integration of continuous quality improvement (CQI) into spiritual care programs and practices, including the use of Lean and Six Sigma.
- **SC325 Counseling Skills for Spiritual Care/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.

- **SC327 Coping with Grief/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course reviews the emotional and spiritual processes of grief with an emphasis on applied research into current theories and spiritual care interventions.

- **SC328 Ethical and Moral Challenges in Health Care/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course reviews the ethical and moral challenges in health care with an emphasis on the spiritual dimensions and consequences that may arise. Topics include diverse patient and family beliefs, values, cultures, and preferences in resolving conflicts and the role and contribution of spiritual care.

- **SC339 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, particularly spiritual care providers.

- **SC329 Spiritual Care with Children/3 credits**

Prerequisite: SC331 Spiritual Screening, History, and Assessment. This course examines concepts essential to the provision of spiritual care to infants, children, and adolescents and their families and their effective application.

- **SC330 Spiritual Care for Pregnancy Loss/3 credits**

Prerequisite: SC331 Spiritual Screening, History, and Assessment. This course introduces the etiology and epidemiology of pregnancy loss, its impact upon parents and families, the spiritual issues that may arise, and appropriate spiritual care interventions and practices.

- **SC334 Communicating Effectively in Spiritual Care/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. To communicate effectively in identifying and responding to potential spiritual issues and providing care, this course provides an overview of listening skills, effective practices, group/family communication, and addressing conflicts.

- **SC331 Spiritual Screening, History, and Assessment/3 credits**

No prerequisite required. This course compares the differences between a spiritual screening, spiritual history, and spiritual assessment, providing opportunity for students to research and engage current theories and implementation of the best tool for their spiritual care practice.

- **SC332 Death and Dying/3 credits**

Prerequisite: SC327 Coping with Grief. This course provides students with the knowledge of the dying process, including physiological changes, emotional, spiritual, and relational challenges. Additionally, students will learn about palliative and hospice care and the integration of spiritual care in end of life care for persons and their families.

- **SC333 Interdisciplinary Teamwork/3 credits**

Prerequisite: SC325 Counseling Skills for Spiritual Care. This course introduces students to the concept of interdisciplinary teamwork within health care settings and the implications for community and other settings. Students will also examine the importance of incorporating spiritual care into the support of staff, particularly those experiencing compassion fatigue, burnout, vicarious trauma, and moral injury.