



The College of Metaphysical Studies

Spiritual/Pastoral Counseling Education Program Spiritual Counselor Standards for Graduation and Certification

Graduation and certification from the Spiritual Counseling Program is granted when you provide evidence of being prepared to practice Spiritual Counseling. This evidence is more than spending a certain length of time in training and completing designated course. Evidence of being prepared to practice Spiritual Counseling emphasizes spiritual, mental, and emotional maturity; devotion to a life-style of service to others; spiritual and intellectual clarity about the purpose and meaning of Spiritual Counseling; and the demonstrated skills to work effectively with people, organize one's own life, and understand administrative responsibilities appropriate to your chosen field of service. Specific requirements are:

1. The satisfactory completion of a minimum of 60 credit hours of work over a minimum period of one calendar year. This includes the necessary internship of 2 credit hours (30 contact hours) to be performed during this period.
2. Any additional requirements that the faculty may assess as a result of reviews or conferences.
3. All work counted toward the hours required for graduation must be completed with the grade of E (excellent) or S (satisfactory).
4. Evidence of such metaphysical, spiritual, mental, and emotional maturity as will support the judgment, by the faculty, of your readiness and fitness to practice the metaphysical/spiritual ministry.
5. Recommendation of the faculty.

Graduation from the CMS Spiritual Counseling program does not mean automatic certification as a spiritual counselor. A student who successfully completes the prescribed one-year course of study shall receive a Certificate of Completion for each course. Individual Intern Programs will be customized to the availability of each student by the CMS faculty advisor. Service hours performed will be converted to credit hours and entered on the official student transcript.

Internship and Certification

A student may also begin their Spiritual Counseling internship program after completion of the counseling portion of the curriculum. Once accepted into the intern program and having been certified as a "student counselor" the student will then spend the internship developing skills and demonstrating counseling ability by performing such spiritual counseling duties under the supervision of the faculty advisor or a certified Spiritual/Pastoral Counselor or ordained minister.

The student is required to perform 30 hours of service time (2 credit hours).

At the successful completion of the internship programs, and upon the recommendation of the faculty advisor, a certified Spiritual/Pastoral counselor, or an ordained minister the student will become eligible for Spiritual Counseling certification. The internship might include, but is not limited to the following:

1. Serve as a student spiritual counselor.
2. Prepare spiritual counseling programs under the auspices of a certified Spiritual/Pastoral Counselor.
3. Establish and direct a senior program, a community interaction program, a hospital visitation program, a series of workshops, a course of metaphysical or spiritual studies, etc.
4. Any combination of the above or other projects approved by CMS.

Objectives

To offer College of Metaphysical Studies students:

- a. Assistance in determining spiritual and metaphysical personal and career objectives.
- b. Opportunities to develop a sense of responsibility.
- c. Hands-on practical experience in the school of learning and the workplace.

Expectations

Students will be expected to:

- a. Apply concepts learned in holistic healing coursed to practical client situations.
- b. Learn to recognize and adapt behavior and dress to identified professional norms.
- c. Expand professional skills by developing techniques and applying methods learned on site.
- d. Communicate appropriately and work effectively with supervisors, co-workers and others.
- e. Model ethical standards and behaviors.
- f. Demonstrate enthusiasm and willingness to give quality work.
- g. Seek and respond positively to suggestions for professional improvement.

Internship is designed to test "on site" skills of the student, to place the trainee in a situation requiring accountability to a congregation or other group. During the internship the student should make monthly reports (or arrange monthly conferences) with their supervisor to assess progress. Special evaluation forms are provided the supervisor and must be returned to CMS before service credit can be granted.

At the conclusion of the Spiritual counseling internship, the student is a candidate for certification as Spiritual Counselor by CMS. Certification is not an honor automatically conferred after completing course work and the internship program. The quality of the candidate's work is assessed by NAMI and CMS. An interview with candidates may be required before bestowing the Spiritual/Pastoral Counseling certification, and CMS and NAMI reserve the right to do so.