

UnityPoint Health – Des Moines CPE Application Writing Guide

Thanks for your interest in our Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) programs at UnityPoint Health – Des Moines! We look forward to receiving your application.

Submission Format: Electronic submission is preferred. Email to eric.johnson@unitypoint.org

Applying for: Please indicate the CPE program of interest and the date you can begin.

Directory Information: Please complete each line of requested information.

Education

- Specify the institution, degree and date awarded.
- If applying for a residency, we require a M.Div. or equivalent graduate level theological education accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and/or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).
- List all prior clinical pastoral education (CPE) achieved to date. Give dates and the number of units you earned. If you are unsure, contact the ACPE national office. They will have your transcript if your prior CPE was done in an ACPE accredited center.

References: Provide contact information in all three categories. If you do not have a current academic reference, provide a contact who can speak to your ability to engage in learning and your openness to instruction.

Questions: Follow the instructions in the application and the additional guidance below.

Question 2 – Life Account: This is an essay question and should be written carefully. Your response should be 2-4 pages, single spaced, 12pt font. We want to get an impression for you as a person and how your family of origin and background has shaped you as a spiritual caregiver, a peer, and a learner. Include descriptions of relationships that shape your identity, roles you played in your families of origin, cultural background, values, conflicts, emotional expression, etc.

Question 3 – Spiritual Growth / Development: This is an essay question and should be written carefully. Your response should be 2-4 pages, single spaced, 12pt font. Describe your spiritual journey from youth to present, including reflections on experiences and relationships that shaped your spirituality and your understanding of your vocation. Reflect on most significant aspects of your spirituality and aspects you imagine would be significant to the CPE learning environment (caring for hospital patients, working with peers, learning from your educator, operating in a diverse environment).

Question 6 – Your impression of CPE: No more than one page, single spaced, 12pt. font.

Question 7 – Interviews: Students applying for initial unit will be interviewed only by the Educator, by phone or video call. Students applying for residency will have a more involved interview process, which may be in-person or virtual. You will be contacted to arrange interview after your application has been reviewed.

Question 8 – No application fee is required.

Question 10 – We require applicants with prior CPE to provide copies of all final evaluations (student and supervisor). If you do not have copies, contact the center(s) where you did CPE.

Questions: email eric.johnson@unitypoint.org or call 515-241-6400.