Clinical Ministry — M.A., Certificate

Program director
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The Clinical Ministry Program leading to a Master of Arts degree encourages students to explore the theological, biblical, and historical roots of ministry within the institutional setting and to prepare for the practice of such ministry. The program is especially valuable as preparation for careers in chaplaincy and other fields of ministry. It is particularly designed for three types of students:

1. those at the beginning of their professional lives;
2. those pursuing this degree in order to enhance or shift their existing careers; and
3. those pursuing this degree as a steppingstone to further study.

This degree furthers education in caring for the whole person. The student will develop clinical skills applicable to contemporary ministry. The program includes education in two areas: academic and clinical. The School of Religion and other cooperating departments within the University provide needed academic preparation.

Settings providing clinical opportunities for training in institutional ministry include: Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC), Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center (BMC), and Campus Ministries.

Loma Linda University Medical Center, under the auspices of the Department of Chaplain Services, is an accredited Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Center. Students admitted to the Clinical Ministry Program may apply for this clinical placement. (Separate application procedures are required.)

Program objectives

Upon completion of the Clinical Ministry Program, students will demonstrate:

1. Increased skills related to clinical ministry.
2. Ability to integrate theoretical, theological, biblical, and philosophical perspectives in the study of clinical ministry.
3. Critical thinking and the ability to identify spiritual issues in clinical ministry within the health-care context.
4. Development of personal understanding of ethical standards and commitments to wholeness that inform their work and personal lives through values development.

Course requirements

In order to receive the Master of Arts degree in clinical ministry from Loma Linda University, the student will complete a specified minimum of 48 units of course work, with an overall grade average of B or higher, with no grade lower than a C; and with no grade lower than a B- in core courses.

Faculty

The faculty represents a balance between academic expertise and clinical experience; as well as a variety of disciplines, including biblical studies, theology, theology and ministry, marriage and family therapy, cultural psychology, American church history, health education, nursing, spirituality, and ethics.

Transfer credits

Students are permitted to transfer up to nine (9) units of approved graduate-level courses from other accredited institutions into the Clinical Ministry Program.

Admissions

In addition to Loma Linda University and School of Religion admissions requirements, the applicants to the M.S. in Chaplaincy Program are expected to present/complete:

1. Propose clear personal and professional goals and ways in which the program in clinical ministry may facilitate their realization.
2. Persuade the Admissions Committee, by previous accomplishments, that s/he is able and willing to reach these goals and to make a distinguished contribution to the field.

Program requirements

M.A.

Major

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELE 524</td>
<td>Bioethics and Society</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELG 504</td>
<td>Research Methods in Religious Studies</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELR 527</td>
<td>Crisis Care and Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELR 565</td>
<td>Pastoral Theology and Methodology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELR 567</td>
<td>Pastoral Counseling</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELR 568</td>
<td>Care of the Dying and Bereaved</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELR 574</td>
<td>Preaching</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELR 584</td>
<td>Culture, Psychology, and Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELR 587</td>
<td>Religion and the Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELT 557</td>
<td>Theology of Human Suffering</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELT 558</td>
<td>Old Testament Thought</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELT 559</td>
<td>New Testament Thought</td>
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Thesis, project, or publishable papers

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELG 697</td>
<td>Independent Research</td>
<td>2-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELG 696</td>
<td>Project</td>
<td>1-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>or RELG 698</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
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Internship

Internship units do not count toward minimum didactic units required for the degree.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELG 795</td>
<td>Clinical Internship (12 units)</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELR 692</td>
<td>Seminar in Religion and Health Care Leadership: Current Trends</td>
<td>4</td>
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Total Units 49
Noncourse requirements

Clinical internship
Students must also satisfactorily complete an approved, 400-hour clinical internship.

The program recommends that the requirements of RELG 795 Clinical Internship be met by the satisfactory completion of one quarter of clinical pastoral education (CPE) at an accredited CPE center. (Note: Acceptance into a quarter of CPE is at the discretion of the CPE supervisor and must be arranged individually and in advance.) It is expected that all students will complete all course work before entering the clinical internship. In certain cases, however, a student may petition the director of the program to take the clinical internship out of sequence. Even in such cases, it is recommended that the following courses be completed before entering the clinical internship:

- RELR 565 Pastoral Theology and Methodology 3
- RELR 567 Pastoral Counseling 4
- RELR 568 Care of the Dying and Bereaved 3

Students who wish to receive academic credits for their clinical internship may register for RELR 524 Clinical Pastoral Education Clinical Pastoral Education. If taken as a selective, this course may account for a maximum of 6 academic units.

After the 400-hour segment, a clinical evaluation form must be submitted to the program director.

Comprehensive examination
Each student must pass a comprehensive examination. This examination will test the student’s ability to integrate and apply knowledge from the overall program. This examination must be successfully completed before the student defends a thesis, project, or publishable papers.

Thesis, project, or publishable papers
Independent research for either the thesis or the project is done while registered for RELG 697 Independent Research (1-8). After completing RELG 697 Independent Research, each student must choose from the following options: (a) prepare a thesis while registered for RELG 698 Thesis (1-4), (b) prepare a project or prepare two major papers of publishable quality while registered for RELG 696 Project (1-4).

The project option must be designed and implemented within the confines of the program and under the auspices and direction of the program director. The student must provide an oral defense of the thesis, project, or two publishable papers.

Length of program
1.25 years (5 academic quarters) — based on full-time enrollment; part time permitted

Certificate
The clinical ministry certificate option is available for students who prefer not to complete the full M.A. degree program.

Noncourse requirements

Fulfilling required units
The 27 required units are to be satisfactorily completed by taking all of the certificate courses indicated in the following table. Three of the courses must be taken for 4 units.

Clinical internship—CPE
The program recommends that the clinical internship requirement of 400 hours (RELG 795 Clinical Internship) be satisfied through one quarter of clinical pastoral education (CPE).

Normal time to complete the program
1 year (3 academic quarters) — based on full-time enrollment; part time permitted