



Jewish Geriatric Chaplaincy Training

October 8, 2020 -- May 6, 2021

Level I and Level II CPE

Introduction:

In the last 100 years, Hebrew SeniorLife (HSL) has grown from a small residence for frail elderly in Dorchester to a highly integrated system of care with an international reputation. HSL's system encompasses 650 chronic care hospital patients, groundbreaking geriatric research (Marcus Institute for Aging Research), palliative and hospice care, new models of sub-acute care, post-hospital care, and home care.

Hebrew Rehabilitation Center (HRC) is the largest of HSL's institutions, with campuses in Boston and in Dedham. The Boston campus offers long-term care, short-term post-acute care, acute care, adult day care, and outpatient specialty services. Its most recent offering is the Center for Memory Health which provides diagnosis, education, treatment, and care coordination for older adults and their families. NewBridge on the Charles, located in Dedham, is HSL's newest campus. It offers independent and assisted living in addition to skilled nursing services and long-term chronic care. Most students will be assigned to clinical time on this campus.

Over 60% of our long-term chronic care patients in Boston are Jewish, with half of these being Jews from the former Soviet Union; in Dedham, closer to 85% are Jewish. Patients on our rehabilitation and post-acute services units reflect the more general population of the surrounding communities, including a broader mix of faiths and cultures.

Program Description:

CPE in a geriatric setting serves as important preparation for the congregational rabbinate/cantorate/ministry, as well as for health care chaplaincy positions. Chaplains support the spiritual and emotional lives of all patients in ways that enhance their overall health and wellbeing. In addition, chaplains help the care-giving staff manage the ongoing emotional demands of their work, which include the presence of death and loss on a regular basis, and understand the spiritual aspects of their patients' needs. Our

setting requires that chaplains be attuned to the variety of Jewish religious/cultural approaches patients may draw from while facing the challenges of aging, loss, end of life decision making, dementia, and seeking spiritual fulfillment in their later years.

Our curriculum addresses spiritual care as it relates to aging, illnesses of aging (including dementia), family caregivers, bioethical decision-making, dying, and bereavement. Special attention is given to cultural and demographic diversity impacting the spiritual issues of older adults, including trauma-informed care, recognizing resilience, working with patients with dementia, LGBT identities, and being “not religious.” Students serve as chaplain interns on assigned HSL units, providing spiritual care to patients, families, and staff. Our primary lens is that of Jewish spiritual care; students who wish to learn about spiritual care from the perspective of other religious/spiritual traditions are invited to make this one of their learning goals.

English is the predominant language of the educational program, and applicants must be fluent in spoken and written English. Special opportunities are available for Russian-speaking applicants, as a significant portion of HSL residents and patients speak Russian; some allowances can be negotiated individually for Russian-speaking students who need to do some of their assignments orally rather than in writing.

This unit of CPE is aimed at chaplains, congregational clergy, seminary and rabbinical students, and laypersons interested in pursuing spiritual care.

Dates: October 8, 2020 – May 6, 2021.

Times: Class day is Thursdays 9-2:30 on the Roslindale (Boston) campus. Class will not meet on November 26, December 24, or December 31. Classroom days do not conflict with the Jewish holidays. An additional 12 hours of clinical work is required weekly, which can be scheduled according to the student’s convenience, beginning after orientation finishes October 22 (or earlier, if a student has already completed orientation from a previous CPE unit at HSL). The program requirement of leading four services, classes, or groups may involve occasional attendance at HSL outside typical clinical hours. Written assignments and readings are also completed outside of the on-site time frame. Individual supervision will be scheduled for one hour biweekly. The CPE program does not require overnight call, and is appropriate for students who are shomer/et Shabbat. No scheduled absences will be granted during orientation (October 8, 15, and 22), midterms (January 21), or final evaluations (April 29). Any absences must be made up.

Faculty: Rev. Mary Martha Thiel, ACPE Certified Educator and Director of CPE at Hebrew SeniorLife, will lead this unit. Several guest speakers will bring their expertise to the didactic part of the curriculum.

Location: 1200 Centre St., Boston MA 02131.

Cost: \$25 application fee. Suggested tuition payment is \$2000; minimum tuition payment is \$1200. For IRS purposes, value received per student is \$1200, with the

CPE at Hebrew Rehabilitation Center
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www.acpe.edu

balance of the tuition being a tax-deductible gift to Hebrew SeniorLife's Chaplaincy Institute. \$250 of tuition serves as a nonrefundable deposit when accepting a position in the program and is credited toward the total tuition payment.

Who may apply? This program is open to persons of any religious tradition interested in Jewish CPE with a focus on spiritual care of older adults.

Application process: Applications are due March 15, 2020. Applicants should read the [Annual Notice](#), [Admissions policy](#), [Use of Clinical Materials Consent Form](#), and [Financial policy](#) on the HSL CPE website and fill out the standard [ACPE application form](#).

By email (preferred): Please scan the above application and email to cpe@hsl.harvard.edu. We will collect the \$25 application fee at the time of the interview.

By mail: Along with the printed application, include a check for \$25 made out to "Hebrew SeniorLife CPE Fund," or fill out the [credit card payment form](#) and send them to:

Rev. Mary Martha Thiel, Director of CPE
Department of Spiritual Care
Hebrew SeniorLife
1200 Centre St.
Boston MA 02131.

When your application is received, we will set up an in person interview, or, for applicants outside the Boston area, by Zoom. Rev. Mary Martha Thiel and another member of the CPE program's Professional Advisory Committee or a member of the spiritual care department will share in the interviewing. We will send a form to your references by email. Please let them know they do not need to send us anything before then. You will be informed of the admissions decision within one month of your interview. The decision is at the sole discretion of HSL.

Transportation and Parking: HRC Boston is accessible by Public Transportation: Orange Line T to Forest Hills, then 38 bus Wren St. via Centre St. Students living close by in Jamaica Plain or Boston often walk or bike to HRC. More adventurous bikers come from Brookline or Newton. Free parking is available.

For more information contact: Rev. Mary Martha Thiel, <Marymarthathiel@hsl.harvard.edu> Tel (617) 363-8804.

Or, go to our website at <https://www.hebrewseniorlife.org/education-programs/spiritual-care-education>.