Pastoral care is integral to the holistic and family-centered model of patient care at NCH. Our chaplain, volunteers and interns minister to patients, families and staff members. All are welcome at regular services in our chapel, which is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We offer a nationally accredited Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program – the only solely pediatric CPE program in Central Florida – that educates participants of all faith traditions. It is designed for:

- Candidates preparing to be hospital chaplains
- Seminarians
- Community clergy
- Lay religious leaders
- Other spiritual caregivers seeking continuing education

**Program Specifics**

The full 1,600-hour CPE curriculum includes two 400-hour Level I units and two 400-hour Level II units. Level 1 units are a prerequisite for Level II enrollment. Level II graduates are eligible to become a Board Certified Clinical Chaplain (BCCC).

Our program runs from September through April and combines weekly classroom sessions with clinical practice at a 1-to-3 ratio. Participants gain confidence and competence through:

- **Direct ministry** as a chaplain to patients and families
- **Interaction with interdisciplinary staff** members
- Individual and group **supervision**
- **Peer group** sessions to share patient case studies, simulate incidents and practice responses, and reflect on faith traditions
- **Didactic workshops and seminars**
- **Reading and writing assignments**

**What to expect as a CPE trainee at NCH**

The program is a unique blend of “action, reflection, action” designed to help you develop self-awareness and skills that you can put in practice to help children and families confronted with a crisis or bereavement.

NCH is an academic medical center nestled in the growing “Lake Nona Medical City.” All CPE participants are encouraged to share their experiences and personal reflections in a supportive learning environment that respects diverse points of view.
Each unit of study unfolds in a similar way

- Case studies are an important component of the learning experience.
- You will practice a step-by-step process adapted to your personal gifts and faith tradition.
- Clinical ministry forms the bulk of coursework. Classroom activities occupy approximately one half day per week.
- The program puts you in direct contact with patients, families, and a wide variety of pediatric subspecialties in a hospital that serves children and teens with chronic and serious illnesses or trauma.
- You will learn the role of chaplaincy as a nested part of the Patient and Family Centered Care team of social workers and child life specialists.
- You will learn how to identify child and adolescent development and family systems.
- You will respond to all patient codes and participate in clinical rounds and case reviews.
- You will learn how to help process advanced directives and end-of-life decisions.
- You will participate in interfaith chapel services and memorials.
- Supervision and evaluations are part of the curriculum.

Accreditation information
The NCH CPE program is accredited by the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy (CPSP), an international, theologically based community that provides certification for clinical chaplaincy, supervision, pastoral counseling, and pastoral psychotherapy. To learn more, visit www.cpsp.org.

Tuition, fees and the application process

- Tuition for each CPE unit is $600.
- We require a $50 application fee.
- The NCH chaplain will schedule a personal interview with applicants who submit an application and application fee.
- Accepted interns must pay a $150 deposit to hold their place in the program.
- Tuition balances are due by the first class date.

Residency
One resident position is available each year beginning in May. The resident will work a full time (40 hours a week) schedule and receive three units of CPE and a stipend. To be eligible for the residency a candidate must have previously completed at least one unit of CPE.

For more information
For more information, contact NCH Chaplain Jim DeGrado at (407) 650-7847 or james.degrado@nemours.org.