



San Francisco
Theological Seminary

Doctor of Ministry Chaplaincy/Spiritual Care Research Literacy

This Doctor of Ministry concentration is designed for Clinical Pastoral Educators, Board Certified Chaplains, and those seeking professional chaplaincy vocations.

Professional chaplains work within research-based care environments where they are increasingly asked to provide research-based practices that contribute to performance improvement in delivery of care. Similarly, pastoral educators are increasingly asked to identify the most effective means of teaching and providing tools needed by chaplains to successfully perform in research-driven environments. Research literacy is essential for spiritual care practitioners working alongside interdisciplinary colleagues guided by scientific inquiry and whose practices are guided by research-based evidence. The chaplaincy/spiritual care (CSC) concentration is ecumenical, multi-faith, culturally competent, spiritually grounded, and pedagogically innovative.

Cultural Competence

Cultural competence is a professional chaplaincy standard. Cultural competence means, in this track, the ability of both the track and the students to adapt to the cultural and religious diversity of its constituencies, and research therein. Neither the cultural diversity within the students' cohort, nor the ministry context will be unattended.

Spiritually accessible

For chaplains and pastoral educators, God is most often revealed through the people they serve. The work of pastoral care is to assist others in locating their God as a God of healing, caring, challenge, and connection. This track, in general, is more likely to communicate the understanding that the Spirit of God is to be found in the struggles of God's people for connection, love, mercy, and justice. While making use of the basic tools for academia, students will further develop their ability to seek spiritual communion with God through living in the tension of the vicissitudes of research models and care relationships that serve their community of faith, communities of affiliation, and institutions in which they work.

Pedagogical Innovation

This concentration integrates the critical theological discourse of advanced theological education with pastoral practice using an informed research method of inquiry.

Learning Objectives:

Chaplains and spiritual care providers will develop and master rigorous data collection methodologies appropriate for their ministry setting. This objective complements the goal of Advanced Pastoral Studies to enhance critical thinking, and nurture the generation and use of clinical and translational research. The CSC curriculum is designed to foster interest and curiosity in professional chaplains about their own and others' provision of spiritual and religious care that give rise to research inquiry and critical thinking. Specific learning objectives include:

- Identify methodological issues and terminology in spiritual care services research
- Identify library and internet information sources
- Review chaplaincy-related research that contributes to a research-informed approach to spiritual and religious care
- Interpret existing research designs and evaluate their quality
- Reflect theologically and critique the history of research
- Utilize data employed by health care administrators in operational and strategic decisions
- Apply performance improvement processes relating to clinical chaplaincy
- Interpret data that contributes to addressing a specific research question or issue
- Identify sources of data and data collection techniques
- Understand and apply characteristics of measurement/data quality
- Understand and apply IRB and HIPAA requirements for data collection

Required Courses:

The Doctor of Ministry degree at SFTS requires six seminars (3 units each), the Dissertation/Project Seminar, and the completion of a Dissertation/Project.

All students take the two Foundational Seminars:

1. Pastor as Person
(Board Certified Chaplains and students eligible for certification may waive this course requirement.)
2. Theology, Culture and Mission

The CSC concentration is built on three required courses to provide a framework for evaluating existing research, understanding methods of data collection, quality, and usage that might be used within various chaplaincy contexts, and theological reflection on the history and politics of research.

1. Action Research and Evidence-Based Research Methods
2. Quantitative vs Qualitative Research Methods
3. The Politics of Research: Ethical, Epistemological, and Ontological Issues

Elective Seminars:

Students may select from elective seminars in the Chaplaincy/Spiritual Care concentration and other program options within the DMin program based on their particular professional needs and research interests.

Dissertation/Project Seminar:

This not-for credit workshop is designed to introduce basic research methods for social analysis, help students to define their area of interest D/P topic, and prepare for the D/P process. It is

offered in two levels,

1. D/P Seminar I, normally taken in the first year of course work
2. D/P Seminar II, normally taken as the student is completing course work and is beginning work on their D/P topic proposal and D/P design proposal.