

CPE during PMM

To find information on CPE go to www.ACPE.edu or for CPE at Wesley contact the Academic Dean or Registrar.

I. Policy

The policy about CPE in the context of a PMM placement was approved by the PMM/Immersion Committee in Nov. 2009 and brought to the faculty afterwards. It reads:

. . . students who do their PMM at a hospital setting will be allowed to pursue one unit of CPE provided that CPE is consistent with the student's vocational discernment and meets the concurrence of the PMM staff. However, the student may not simultaneously register for PMM and CPE [PC-491 and PC-493] in the same semester.

The main problem we want to avoid with CPE is students double-dipping with regard to academic credit for the same unit--or the same amount of practicum hours.

II. Rationale

- A. When we were allowing students to do PMM in hospitals but prohibiting CPE entirely within the context of that placement, we found ourselves inadvertently avoiding some of the more pedagogically effective hospitals as PMM sites. So, we are now more flexible.
- B. Another reason for the more relaxed policy is to better empower student responsibility and student agency in their own experience of PMM.

III. Disincentives

There are two general disincentives for students to not do CPE during PMM, though: one financial and the other the time devoted to the process.

- A. **Financial.** If students want their tuition to cover the fees for CPE, there is no provision for this to happen with PMM as it does with the two official CPE courses in the catalog.
- B. With regard to **process**, we still require the whole PMM process for all students in hospital settings, including colloquy.
 1. So the question for students is: How best do they want to utilize their time and engage the reflective process?
 2. Also, If CPE supervisors are to serve as PMM pastor-mentors they too would have to use our PMM process, including participation in orientation and the PMM evaluation process. Some may balk at this.
 3. CPE supervisors may also have qualms about students using case material from their CPE setting in case discussions within the seminary colloquy—a requirement of our PMM course.

IV. Summer

PMM is especially problematic for CPE with regard to process for the following reasons:

- A. The dates for the unit of CPE would have to coincide with the dates for the 10-week summer PMM internship and on-line colloquy;
- B. Summer PMM has required reflective materials—both reading and methods of analysis—that might work in tension with reflective materials utilized in CPE, hindering rather than reinforcing the reflective process in one context or the other;
- C. The summer on-line colloquy is intensive, requiring students to log-in and respond five or six times a week. Students exhausted from their clinical hours in the hospital and already having processed some of their experience with peers in CPE will be less inclined to participate faithfully or meaningfully in the on-line colloquy with their Wesley peers.

In fact, it is quite conceivable that a student might complete a unit of CPE with flying colors but still fail PMM because of this multiplicity of requirements and expectations. Students who want to pursue this direction should **check carefully with both the PM&M office and their CPE supervisor to ensure compatibility between the two.**