

# Spiritual Care Residency/Fellowship Information Sheet

## History, Purpose, and Structure

The VCH Spiritual Care and Multi faith services program has been running clinical pastoral education (CPE) units since the 1970s. CPE students function at the basic and advanced levels of an internship program. Said internships in CPE, and a related master's degree, are recognized as standard training for Spiritual Health Practitioners as outlined in the MOH document [Spiritual Health – A Framework for British Columbia's Spiritual Health Professionals \(2012\)](#).

Since 2016 the VCH Spiritual Care department has also taught post-CPE students in a residency/fellowship program. Framed within the context of a directed studies course, the residency is designed for students who have already completed all of their CPE units. The purpose of the residency is to provide advanced professional education and practicum experience in an area of specialization such as the spiritual care of psychiatric patients, or the spiritual care of persons having chronic illness, etc. Unlike the CPE internship program, there is no peer group at this level of study and each individual student works one on one with an approved clinical educator/supervisor. The educator/supervisor must be recognized by an affiliated school as qualified to teach Spiritual Care within a master's degree program, as an adjunct professor. In some cases, a resident will also be mentored by an experienced Spiritual Health Practitioner (SHP) working in the same area of specialization as that selected by the student.

## Form of Education

The residency is an action reflection model of education utilizing direct experience of patients/clients in combination with written and oral reflection on said experience. Readings are also required to expand the student's theory base and development of clinical strategies. Case studies are a core feature, as are process notes provided at weekly meetings with the professor and the mentor.

## Affiliation

All residents are enrolled at the master's level in an individualized Directed Studies course with their professor/clinical educator through a local university or other institution of higher learning such as the [Vancouver School of Theology](#).

## Accountability

The program is accountable to the Director of Spiritual Care and Multifaith Services who in turn reports to a member of the VCH senior executive team. Each individual directed studies program of studies must be approved by the Dean of Students at the Vancouver School of Theology.

## Hours of Operation

Vancouver Coastal Health runs 2 half time **post**-CPE fellowship/residencies. Each position allocates 20 hrs of combined direct, and indirect care. Hours for residents placed at VGH are normally between 2pm and 7:30 pm during assigned week days and at least 4 hours on either Sat or Sun. Residents typically spread out their 20 hours over 3 or 4 days. The intention is to provide late afternoon and evening coverage 5 days per week along with partial weekend coverage, between the 2 half time residents. Some variations of these hours may be arranged in order to facilitate attendance at rounds. Residents are also expected to supply one week per month of after hours on call response as part of their stipend. The course is designed to mesh well for students seeking to complete a 2<sup>nd</sup> master's degree. Assigned hours at other sites may vary for those in special assignments.

## Duration

The residency is one year in length and can be renewed with the agreement of both parties for a second year. The program is also synchronized with the fall/winter and spring/summer terms of the Vancouver School of Theology. At the end of one year, students have provided the 1000 documented hours of spiritual care practice required to apply for Certification with the [Canadian Association for Spiritual Care](#).

## Academic Year

The normal start date is September 01. Interested persons who have completed their second advanced unit of CPE or who have equivalency may contact Doug Longstaffe, Director, Spiritual Care and Multi-Faith Services, at Vancouver General Hospital at [doug.longstaffe@vch.ca](mailto:doug.longstaffe@vch.ca). Openings occasionally also arise in the spring.

## Non Discrimination

In accordance with VCH standards the program does not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, creed, gender identity, or sexual orientation. The residency is open to students of all religious traditions or none and the Vancouver School of Theology accepts students from any religious tradition.

## Screening for Readiness

All applicants are screened for cognitive, emotional and spiritual readiness. Each must have completed all CPE units necessary for application for certification with the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care.

## Placement Locations

Various locations across VCH may be considered for placement of a resident. In locations distant from VGH a local mentor is required.

## Further Information

For more information please contact Doug Longstaffe – Director of Spiritual Care and Multifaith Services at [doug.longstaffe@vch.ca](mailto:doug.longstaffe@vch.ca)