DP9013S  Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care in Education, Healthcare & Community Settings

The aim of this unit is to enable practitioners to develop a pastoral and theological framework for engaging in pastoral care roles outside of the church and in the community, acting with integrity towards the organisation’s purpose and their own pastoral formation. Pastoral care is explored in the context of diverse community settings including hospitals, schools, workplaces, sporting, defence forces and other community organisations. Interpretive frameworks (language, metaphor and image) are theologically evaluated in the light of the separation of these settings from the church or where, critically, the influence of religious spiritual care is less pronounced. The role and identity of pastoral carers, chaplains and other pastoral workers within such contexts are critically examined and the implications of ‘divorce’ from one’s faith tradition are examined pastorally and vocationally. Practical challenges are considered: managing the organisational demands of the institution in which the practitioner is engaged; interpreting and integrating the theological and pastoral intent of the chaplain/pastoral carer within the role or position description; developing reflective practice that can respect and dialogically integrate theology, experience, culture and context.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:
1. Articulate operative theological frameworks for community-based care in a specific context
2. Identify available pastoral frameworks for ‘care in context’ and critically integrate these with their own pastoral practice.
3. Express theological concepts in language, image and metaphor appropriate to the context.
4. Identify appropriate policy documentation, practice guidelines and reporting requirements within their own specific context.
5. Critically apply theological and pastoral reflections and contemporary research in different settings for care.

Prerequisites: One foundational unit (15 points) in Field D

Prohibited Combinations: DM/DP2/3/9030W Chaplaincy in Educational Settings

Class Time: Intensive: two three-day blocks

Assessment:
- Theological/Pastoral Reflection on a Biography of Context (1,500 words) (25%)
- Reflection on Presentation by Practitioner (1,500 words) (25%)
- Integrative Essay (3,000 words) (50%)

Faculty: Gary Heard

Offered: 2016: Intensive in partnership with Stirling Theological College

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase


