

Drawbacks of CPE

- * It does require more time and usually additional cost. We are exploring ways to help offset the additional cost.
- * Sometimes, being able to fit CPE in during seminary with all of the other requirements but the committee has worked with Candidates to accomplish this requirement with all of the others.
- * The cost and difficulty some candidates have with their particular group/supervisor.
- * only the practical aspects of finances, scheduling and family/child care issues which are a part of the overall preparation for ministry process, but may be accentuated during the CPE experience.
- * PSYCHOLOGICAL NUT CASES AS SUPERVISORS. THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO "TEAR DOWN THEOLOGY AND BUILD BACK UP A PERSON'S PSCHYE." IT'S ALSO EXPENSIVE. CANDIDATES HAVE TO PAY FOR SEMINARY CREDIT, TRAVEL EXPENSES, LIVING EXPENSES, AND THE CPE FEES. THEY EARN NEXT TO NOTHING FROM HOSPITALS. AND, THERE HAS TO BE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF "COURAGE" TO TAKE ON A HOSPITAL SETTING. YOU NEED TO BE WILLING TO ROLL UP YOUR SLEAVES AND DEAL WITH DEATH AND PATIENTS WHO ARE SCARED OUT OF THEIR WITS AND ACTING UNREASONABLY, ETC ETC ETC. FOR A FEW CANDIDATES, IT MIGHT BE BOTH EYE OPENING AND HEART BREAKING, WHICH COULD BE TOUGH.
- * The cost is what prevents us from requiring it, we have tried to make it required by our presbytery voted against this policy because so many of our inquirers/candidates struggle financially as it is to pay for seminary, many balance coursework, full time employment and active participation in a church along with family obligations making this additional requirement which whether done in the school semester or over the summer would prevent a seminarian from working.
- * Thus far I have not perceived any drawbacks. We did have one candidate for whom, because of his family situation, CPE would have required long distance travel that would have been beyond his financial means. In that case we worked with the candidate and the seminary to develop a clinical substitute at a local hospital that was closer to home, and that offered a similar degree and quality of supervision and experience. Our committee was quite pleased with the way it worked out.
- * There are no real drawbacks. Candidates often have issues relating to the time required to schedule CPM into seminary and other plans; however, when

informed of the requirement at the beginning of the process, timing is handled well.

- * We have not systematically required it because it represents an added expense, a considerable commitment of time, and many other opportunities lost (other field work, elective courses, family time, etc.).

- * The only possible drawback would be the time involved and best location / program for the individual candidate / inquirer. However these are minor drawbacks compared with the overall value of the CPE experience.

- * Can be difficult to fit into schedule, expensive (forgoing working, etc)

- * CPE programs vary from place to place in terms of quality and style. But I think most of our candidates have had a good experience.

- * Not met any yet

- * We have identified none.

- * 1. Cost, especially for those who are already in debt. 2. For students who are married with families, it can be a very great burden financially and time-wise. It usually needs to be done in the summer, and many need to work in the summer to raise money for family and school. Spouse is usually the one who carries the extra burden. It is a highly labor-intensive and financial/time-intensive requirement. Although it is a requirement, I think a committee needs to be flexible in requiring in every case. It is not for everyone.

- * On rare occasions a person's resistant attitude causes him/her to have a negative experience in CPE.

Also, there are situations where the CPE requirement is burdensome due to family or financial needs. So far we have been able to find the resources needed to make it work for the person. But then, we have multiple CPE sites within our Presbytery. It might be different in other settings.

- * Our experience is that CPE programs vary in quality and helpfulness, and they are not appropriate or necessary for all.

- * It is frustrating to students, understandably, to commit to the additional time commitment which requires a fee or tuition payment and provides no income.

It is the exception as far as we know, but an incompetent facilitator/supervisor

can result in a stressful, negative experience for the student.

* The drawbacks are logistical in nature--finding certified locations with certified supervisors, and the possibility of extending their seminary time. With proper planning, however, both of these can be avoided. We believe the benefits outweigh the cons.

* Some benefited and some did not. It takes a lot of time away from family and work.

* The drawbacks are time and expense. Generally the benefits outweigh the drawbacks, and there has been informal initial discussion about the desirability of requiring CPE of all persons under CPM care.

* I can't think of any drawbacks of requiring CPE. Having such a requirement means that persons who think they don't want or need CPE will still have to do it, and they will usually learn and grow in spite of themselves.

* My personal feeling is that CPE should not be required unless the committee feels it is needed for a particular candidate, but I am completely outnumbered by others who disagree and think it's good for everyone.

* Finding a certified program within driving distance. We have compromised in the past by having a student who had little practical ministry experience work with a chaplain outside a certified program.

* All I know of is that we have one candidate who plans to transfer her care to another Presbytery because she absolutely will not do CPE.

* Not all experiences are as good as others as we are finding with a student taking CPE over the course of a full year. At this point he has missed most of the crisis situations because he has not been scheduled when they happen. However, in the long run there are no real drawbacks. A candidate should never be allowed to enter the parish ministry without having the experience of CPE.

* MONEY....as students usually have to pay for it out of their own pocket....

* We've not experienced any drawbacks related to CPE

* For us one of the drawbacks is that some of our students are going into the ministry midlife and usually for economic reasons have to finish their work as soon as possible. Adding more requirements makes it that much more difficult for them. In some cases it is easier to go back and get the training after they are ordained.

* Seminaries seem to require either CPE or field ed. We require both, which sometimes creates a schedule or financial challenge.

There is considerable resistance to the program -- many inquirer/candidates are reluctant to do it. Perhaps it is reluctance to confront mortality. Almost invariably, though, they report it was worth it. One said, it was, as he had been told by a seminary colleague, the hardest thing he'd ever do and the most rewarding.

Having a set policy helps with those who resist.

* Some seminaries don't have too many available opportunities and sometimes there is additional expense that doesn't come under a seminary's financial aid.

* There have been no drawbacks of requiring it, except for some reticence upon hearing of the requirement by some. But, once experienced, that concern has always melted.

* It is sometimes hard to fit in their schedule.

* Finding an accredited program within a reasonable distance of seminary.

* It is a lot of trouble, it takes a lot of time, and it often gets to be very expensive, yet every candidate has expressed satisfaction with the experience. I recommend it to other presbyteries.

* The time required.

* The only problem we have had is when the candidate has a problem with self-evaluation - ie: there is something in their past which acts as a block to discovering why they act the way they do. (Which, by the way, is one reason some people go into ministry in the first place!)

* We have recommended CPE and have not experienced any drawbacks.

* There are good supervisors and bad supervisors. Finding the right program for each individual.

* I don't see any drawbacks. Our students end up in such diverse places we seldom have trouble finding the opportunity if it is required, but it is seldom required.

* Today's second career students have a difficult time juggling their schedules, and have a particularly hard time financially because it is three months they pay for in which they cannot work. Also, finding accredited sites is getting increasingly difficult.

* As far as the drawbacks of requiring CPE, Kris couldn't really articulate any--other than the fact that some persons can't "handle" the CPE experience and become discouraged and/or disillusioned--especially in situations where those persons do not feel particularly well-nurtured. In such cases, the CPE serves as an effective tool of discernment for the person considering ministry.

* None

* It is hard for married students with families, etc. to relocate for a summer session somewhere - particularly if their town doesn't have an accredited site (eg. Dubuque) It is expensive for students to find housing/etc...for a summer away from seminary housing. It is hard to get into some programs. Some programs are better than others. If it is a bad setting/supervisor, it can be a miserable experience.

* CPE is not the same as intensive pastoral counseling or therapy, and should not be recommended, when counseling is needed, in place of it. One drawback for students in doing CPE is a possible delay in when they are finished with CPM/ordination requirements, depending on other summer plans. Another drawback is that participating in a program out of requirement instead of choice, sometimes pre-disposes the student to begin with an attitude of resentment instead of openness to the process.

* It seems that among the more conservative students and their churches, CPE is viewed quite negatively. The students tell us they only want to learn how to do hospital visits, or to explore chaplaincy as a potential call. These individuals have a hard time giving themselves to the program, frequently remaining negative and resentful. Some feel "abused" having to mix with individuals of other faith traditions, not being allowed to try to convert them. For some students, the additional costs and time expended on top of seminary are problematic. However, it should be mentioned that several of our local theological schools REQUIRE CPE for graduation. (We look to them for guidance on quality of any given program at a given time.

- * I do not see drawbacks, except some find it difficult to work in this requirement.
- * FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS, OUR PRESBYTERY HELPS WITH THIS
- * It can contribute to the 'denuding' of ministry in the name of 'tolerance' so that it is not longer Christian...but mere human that offers no truth in its program.
 - * a. It is hard to find spots for people who work full-time and need part time CPE.
 - * b. If the program is bad, it can be an awful experience.
- * 1) poor theology of many sites and supervisors that is mostly nebulously "spiritual" and pluralistic. This is a HUGE problem in reflection on experiences.
 - 2) Lack of pay for the interns. It's just a practical problem that they need money for their work.
- * A negative aspect of CPE could be the expense associated with travel and living expenses for those who are away from home. We have had no complaints about this.
- * The drawbacks are that sometimes, students find themselves mixed in with a supervisor that does not lead in healthy way. Sometimes students don't really need a clinical unit of CPE, but there are only a limited number of alternative experiences out there.
- * Fitting it into the schedule, as seminary is already a very hectic time. It is also costly, both of time and the fact that you not only have to pay for this but you are losing the wages you could be earning for the rest of your schooling while you take it (if you take it during the summer).
- * **The main drawback is financial. It can be a double whammy of the expense of doing a CPE (tuition, living expenses if not at home or seminary, possible credits) and the loss of income because they can't work a paying job while doing CPE.**
 - Also, the experience can be made or broken by the supervisor. The ability of the supervisor can affect the outcome of the experience.**
- * The biggest challenge that we face is that most CPE programs do not fit the real lives of our candidates and inquirers. Of the 22 candidates and inquirers currently under care of Cherokee Presbytery, only 3 are "traditional" students. Fifteen are second career people. Seven work full-time, and seven work part-time. Eleven have children at home. With those kinds of responsibilities, it is difficult to undertake the kind of time commitment that CPE requires.

We do make exceptions to the requirement from time-to-time. Some of our second career people have had life experiences that were valid to exempt them from CPE. In some cases, we have asked the person to fulfill an alternative requirement. For instance, one of our candidates works full-time as a youth leader at a large church. We allowed him to work with the Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care at that church in hospital and other visits, and to process issues with her.

* One drawback is finding the time in the typical three-year course of studies. Another is the added cost of their education.

* Most of our students are either married or second career thus limiting their ability to travel to a CPM site.

* We have found that students who attend Dubuque Seminary have a difficult time finding a certified CPE program. There is no such program in Dubuque. Most of our students there end up doing CPE in either Madison, WI or Des Moines, IA, or else back here in Omaha.

* Resistance by some students scheduling the experience and paying for it.

* We did have one very bad experience where a student was asked to assist with an autopsy or to stay with the body while a family viewed it or something. It resulted in a post-traumatic stress reaction and she finally dropped out of the ministry program as a result. We were never exactly clear what happened but it seems completely beyond the realm of what a CPE should require or involve. We had another student at the same CPE site and he did not have a bad experience, so what happened, we were never completely clear.

* None

* **CPE takes time, commitment and an outlay of cash. Our candidates and inquirers are often less than excited about all of the above.**

* Our requirement has had no teeth in the past. Trying to give it teeth is nearly impossible given the lack of opportunities. Spending exorbitant amounts of time trying to help C/I's find opportunities.

* **It is sometimes difficult to secure a place in a certified program and it can be expensive for the candidate or disruptive to home life if one has to travel far.**

* Primarily how much we ask of candidates, the full-time requirement of most CPE, our requirement also to do parish internship.

- * None. The value of the experience outweighs any drawbacks.
- * The financial strain of doing CPE is sometimes an issue, particularly for students with families to support. Those students sometimes benefit from an extended CPE program rather than a summer long program.
- * I cannot think of any.
- * Drawbacks include time and pressure issues.
- * We sometimes run into challenges getting it scheduled appropriately, but it seems that it is such a clear expectation that candidates just deal with that aspect.
- * None
- * On the surface the drawbacks are the perceived negative aspects of the things I have indicated to be the benefits. Another

Another potential drawback of course would be to be in a situation where the supervision is poor.

- * Quality of experience depends on supervisor. Can be hit or miss.
- * Other than a time and/or money factor with CPE for an individual, we don't see drawbacks. (we have provided some scholarships to those in financial distress) We believe the positive gains far outweigh the drawbacks.
- * CAN POSE FINANCIAL ISSUES – WE HAVE GIVEN SOME ASSISTANCE IN SOME CASES
- * Hospital based CPE can be narrowly focused for those intending to serve as pastors of local churches. While some of our ministry is in the hospital setting most of it is not. Thus the congregation based CPE is a wonderful alternative that is also more conducive to pastoral ministry.

