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1-1-2001

# PC 660 Practicum in Pastoral Care

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### Recommended Citation

Mucherera, Tapiwa N., "PC 660 Practicum in Pastoral Care" (2001). *Syllabi*. Book 995.  
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**PC 660 – Practicum in Pastoral Care**  
**Tapiwa Mucherera, Coordinator**

Purpose: The purpose of this course is to provide students the opportunity to experience ministry and to reflect upon that experience. The goals include:

1. To confirm present knowledge as well as learning new knowledge about pastoral care.
2. To develop understanding about persons and their needs and to understand those needs from a pastoral perspective and purpose.
3. To experience the applications of pastoral care knowledge and understanding in the context of a “hands-on” ministry.
4. To reflect on one’s acts of ministry in order to gain insights about those actions, about the needs of people, and about one’s style of ministry.
5. To develop one’s pastoral identity and role of authority.

Context:

1. Participants will be assigned to an institutional setting (hospitals, retirement centers, etc.). They will be supervised by staff chaplains and will respond to opportunities for ministry in assigned areas of these settings.
2. Complete 120-130 hours of involvement at the placement. (For example: Spend four days a week for four weeks at the hospital – Tues. – Fri., 8:00 am – 4:00 pm).
3. Read one book as assigned by supervisor and /or selected by the student.  
Suggestions:  
Biddle, Perry H. Hospital Manual – Abingdon Press, 1990.

Holst, Lawrence. Hospital Ministry – The Role of the Chaplain Today. New York: Crossroad, 1989.

Richmond, Kent D. & David L. Middleton. The Pastor and the Patient, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992.

4. Assume responsibility as assigned by the chaplain supervisor; including: visitation of patients, two verbatims, individual and group supervision, and didactic seminars.
5. Prepare a 3-5 page summary of the experience. Identify personal and professional development, significant experiences, and other valuable understandings gained. (See outline) Discuss with supervisor in last session and hand into Dr. Mucherera.

Evaluation: This is a credit only course based upon fulfilling assignments, completing attendance at all functions of the program, demonstrating the capacity to function in a pastoral manner, openness to personal growth, and evidence of capacity to offer appropriate pastoral care.

**PC 660 PRACTICUM**  
**Reflection Paper Suggested Format**

Instructions: Prepare for your final supervisory session a two – three page reflection paper. This paper is to be an over-view of your experience. Type and double space. The following outline is suggestive. Send a copy to Dr. Tapiwa Mucherera.

1. Describe the placement and some of your assignments.
  
2. Discuss some of the issues that you dealt with professionally. That is, the situations you encountered. Select only a few that were especially growth provoking.
  
3. Discuss what you learned about yourself.
  
4. Finally, reflect upon some areas for further growth and how you might deal with those areas to facilitate growth and development in them.