

School for Correctional Ministries

Correctional Chaplaincy Credential

Competencies

Competency 1 Personal and Professional Development

- 1.1 Develops a personal mission statement that identifies his/her gifts, strengths, and weaknesses and aligns that statement with professional ministry goals and objectives.
- 1.2 Plans for ongoing personal spiritual development that includes a spiritual mentoring partner and a process of accountability.
- 1.3 Engages in activities that implement the professional development plan.
- 1.4 Complies with the Code of Ethics and polices at the correctional institution where ministering.

Competency 2 Biblical Principles and the Correctional Environment

- 2.1 Identifies, describes, and explains the influences that Christian theology has had on the development of the American correctional system and its primary philosophical premises.
- 2.2 Defines and effectively presents restorative justice principles to key stakeholders and applies those principles, where appropriate, within his/her ministry delivery.
- 2.3 Identifies, describes, and explains the unique cultural dynamics of correctional settings—how those impact both staff and offenders and contribute to stress-related behaviors.
- 2.4 Recognizes prominent manipulative behaviors of inmates that are designed to bypass institutional rules and applies strategies to avoid being compromised.

Competency 3 Correctional Chaplaincy

- 3.1 Identifies, describes, and presents the historical roots of chaplaincy, the redefinitions of chaplaincy roles and expectations in response to changing environments, and the current trends that impact the profession.
- 3.2 Describes the critical implications of RLUIPA on administrative policies and procedures, and demonstrate the incorporation of functional principles of the legislation into institutional ministry protocols.

- 3.3 Identifies and describes the four *critical dimensions of* chaplaincy—Personal, Pastoral, Administrative, Community—and present specific strategies for integrating them into the personal institutional ministry plan.

Competency 4 Pastoral Care

- 4.1 Identifies the primary biogenic, psychogenic, and sociogenic factors contributing to criminal behaviors and apply counseling strategies that account for them.
- 4.2 Identifies the primary dysfunctional cognitive errors and demonstrate the ability to help offenders recognize them and apply biblically-based counter measures.
- 4.3 Demonstrates the presence of strategic alliances with community faith-based reentry agencies and leaders and, where appropriate, serves as a liaison to them on offender issues.
- 4.4 Describes and explains the theological foundations for a pastoral ministry within a correctional setting along with major theories of counseling that are applicable in that setting.
- 4.5 Identifies the specific religious and ethnic diversities within a correctional population and presents evidence of an appropriate breadth of pastoral strategies that accommodate that diversity.
- 4.6 Identifies and describes presenting behaviors by offenders that are indicative of mental health profiles and explain strategies for collaboration with institutional Mental Health staff.
- 4.7 Handles Scripture rightly, wisely, and humbly in respectful interactions with offenders and staff.

Competency 5 Programmatic

- 5.1 Prepares a detailed in-facility ministry plan that incorporates the *critical dimensions of* chaplaincy and that includes an analysis of: 1) the institutional mission; 2) any physical characteristics that impact program delivery; and 3) the demographics of the offender population.
- 5.2 Develops and implements a strategic plan for faith-based instruction that demonstrates transformational learning principles and developmentally appropriate teaching methods to address identified needs of an offender population.
- 5.3 Prepares an annual plan for recruiting, training, and evaluating volunteers for specific tasks to be performed within the parameters of the institutional ministry plan.

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Program Requirements

(21 Credits)

Core Courses

The Core Courses provide students with:

- A strong biblical basis for correctional ministry
- An understanding of the criminal justice, corrections, and reentry systems, priorities, and issues
- An understanding of the dynamics of working with offenders and ministry implications
- Evangelism and discipleship strategies for offenders and corrections staff
- Support for an increased Christian commitment and personal leadership in correctional ministry

Core Courses (9 credits)

- Introduction of Correctional Ministries (3 credits)
- Dynamics of Working with Offenders (3 credits)
- Leadership and Spiritual Formation of Offenders (3credits)

Chaplaincy

(9 Credits)

The correctional Chaplaincy program is designed for individuals seeking to pursue ministry as a correctional chaplain. Upon completion of the program requirements, students receive the Correctional Ministries Certificate with an emphasis in Correctional Chaplaincy.

The Correctional Chaplaincy program equips students to:

- Summarize the specific roles and responsibilities of correctional chaplains in the areas of administrative duties, pastoral care, personal development and community relations.
- Demonstrate the skills needed as religious program managers.
- Develop sensitivity to cultural differences, religious diversity, gender, and special needs.

Courses

- Foundations of Correctional Chaplaincy (3 credits)
- Care and Counseling in Corrections (3 credits)
- Program Development and Evaluation (3 credits)

Capstone Project or Internship (3 credits)

Each certificate program must include one of the following:

- **Capstone project:** Approved by advisor
OR
- **Internship:** Uniquely tailored to the particular track the student is on and involve a correctional ministry coach.