

# Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care for Theological and Religious Leaders

**Chaplains work in a variety of settings** - the military, healthcare, prisons, higher education, airports, ports, police and fire departments, government settings, disaster zones, with sports teams, social movements, and community organizations. They are formally required in the military, federal prisons and the Veterans Administration ([CIL Beginners Guide 2021](#)).



**More than 80 theological schools offer specialized degrees for chaplains** - some are Masters of Divinity, some are Masters of Arts, and a few are Doctorates of Ministry or PhDs. Christian institutions affiliated with the Association for Theological Schools and Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and interfaith institutions not so affiliated all offer these degrees.

Most of these programs were started in the last 20 years. Faculty teaching in these programs have not come to consensus about the skills and competencies chaplains need to do their work well ([Cadge et al. 2020](#)).

**Interest in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is growing.** Between 2005 and 2015, the number of student units of CPE completed increased by 25% ([Cadge et al. 2020](#)). There has been little consensus amongst CPE educators about what core knowledge should be taught in CPE programs including in didactic curricula ([Clevenger et al. 2020](#)).

**Chaplaincy education programs in theological education are not well connected** to clinical chaplaincy training or to the requirements for employment in paid chaplaincy positions ([Cadge et al. 2020](#)).

**Twenty-one percent of people in the United States had contact with a chaplain in the past two-years**, according to a national survey in 2019 NORC. The majority - 57% - had that contact in a healthcare setting. ([Cadge, Winfield, Skaggs 2019](#)).

**Between 1972 and the present, growing numbers of clergy worked outside of congregations**, including as chaplains. Healthcare is the sector in which there was the largest increase over time ([Schleifer & Cadge 2019](#)).

## LEADERSHIP IN SPIRITUAL CARE

*The Lab is partnering with theological educators to launch and strengthen programs to train leaders in spiritual care. We offer these resources in a spirit of collaboration and support: our [eBook](#) on starting a chaplaincy program; a series of 4 interactive [case studies](#) for classroom or individual use; a [mentoring](#) program for prospective chaplains; resources on [syllabi](#); and [more](#).*

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