STANDARDS OF BOARD CERTIFICATION FOR
THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF VETERAN AFFAIRS CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS

301 Qualifications of Professional Chaplaincy

The candidate for Board Certification must:

301.1 Provide 3 sets of the application form with each of the following documents to the Chair of Certification Commission

301.11 An Autobiography (Max. 5 pages double spaced)

301.12 Verification of 4 Clinical Pastoral Education Units by an Accredited ACPE or United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Commission on Certification and Accreditation (USCCB/CCA) or Canadian Association for Pastoral Practice and Education (CAPPE/ACPEP) by providing a copy of your final evaluation and your supervisor's final evaluation. No Equivalency will be granted in lieu of CPE Unit

301.13 Be employed by a Veterans Affairs facility as a Chaplain and endorsed by the National Chaplain Center (VACO) on either a full time, part time, fee basis, or contract basis. Being in the National Chaplain Center Directory listing will suffice as evidence of endorsement and of employment in the VA.

301.14 Verification of VIRTUS or similar approved training completion

301.15 Verification of a Masters degree in Divinity, Theology or Equivalent Studies

301.16 Respond to NCVACC Section on Theory of Pastoral & Spiritual Care (Max. 5 pages with vignettes double spaced)

301.17 Respond to NCVACC Section on Identity & Conduct (Max. 5 pages with vignettes double spaced)

301.18 Respond to NCVACC Section on Pastoral (Max. 5 pages with vignettes double spaced)

301. 19 Respond to NCVACC Section on Professional (Max. 5 pages with vignettes double spaced)

301.20 Copy of Membership Dues receipt of payment ($100 Annual dues) from the Treasurer
301.21 Copy of Certification application fee receipt of payment ($50.00) from the Treasurer

301.22 Copy of Certification fee receipt of payment ($100.00) from the Treasurer (once every 7 years)

301.23 Provide a letter of recommendation from your immediate supervisor regarding your ministry and performance.

301.24 Provide 2 verbatims.

301.25 Reciprocity will be granted to Board Certified Chaplains by NAVAC, NACC, and APC. These individuals still have to submit an application, have to be members of NCVACC, copies of receipts for the 3 fees listed above and submit documentation that proves board certification from either NAVAC, NACC or APC.

302 Theory of Pastoral & Spiritual Care

The candidate for certification will demonstrate the ability to:

302.1 Articulate a theology of spiritual care that is integrated with a theory of pastoral practice.

302.2 Incorporate a working knowledge of psychological and sociological disciplines and religious beliefs and practices in the provision of spiritual care.

302.21 Demonstrate an understanding of scripture, current theology, ecclesiology, sacramental theology, and Catholic Social Teaching.

302.3 Incorporate the spiritual and emotional dimensions of human development into the practice of pastoral care.

302.4 Incorporate a working knowledge of ethics appropriate to the pastoral context.

302.41 Demonstrate an understanding of *The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*.

302.42 Demonstrate an understanding of *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*

302.43 Demonstrate theoretical understanding of Just War Theory and Roman Catholic social teaching as it relates to war and conflict in our world

302.5 Articulate a conceptual understanding of group dynamics and organizational behavior.

303 Identity and Conduct

The candidate for certification will demonstrate the ability to:
303.1 Function pastorally in a manner that respects the physical, emotional, and spiritual boundaries of others.
303.2 Use pastoral authority appropriately.
303.3 Identify one’s professional strengths and limitations in the provision of spiritual care.

303.3.1 Demonstrate the ability to be self-reflective.

303.4 Articulate ways in which one’s feelings, attitudes, values, and assumptions affect one’s spiritual care.
303.5 Advocate for the persons in one’s care.
303.6 Function within the Common Code of Ethics for Chaplains, Pastoral Counselors, Pastoral Educators and Students.
303.7 Attend to one’s own physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

303.7.1 Articulate a spirituality grounded in a relationship with God, self, and others.

303.8 Communicate effectively orally and in writing.
303.9 Present oneself in a manner that reflects professional behavior, including appropriate attire and personal hygiene.

304 Pastoral

The candidate for certification will demonstrate the ability to:

304.1 Establish, deepen, and end pastoral relationships with sensitivity, openness, and respect.
304.2 Provide effective pastoral support that contributes to the well-being of patients, their families, and staff.
304.3 Provide spiritual care that respects diversity and differences including, but not limited to culture, gender, sexual orientation, and spiritual/religious practices.

304.3.1 Provide spiritual care to veterans with respect to their specific needs as they relate to military service, combat, and the different Eras in which they served.

304.3.2 Provide spiritual care to veterans who suffer from PTSD, TBI, mental illness, substance abuse, military sexual trauma as well as other pains and sufferings of veterans.

304.3.3 Provide spiritual care to veterans in special care settings such as palliative care and long term care facilities.

304.3.4 Provide competent spiritual care to veterans who experience a variety of emotions and deal with moral conflict related to war and combat.

304.4 Triage and manage crises in the practice of spiritual care.
304.5 Provide spiritual care to persons experiencing loss and grief.

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304.6 Formulate and utilize spiritual assessments in order to contribute to plans of care, and document in CPRS.

304.7 Provide religious/spiritual resources appropriate to the care of patients, families, and staff.

304.8 Develop, coordinate, and facilitate public worship/spiritual practices appropriate to diverse settings and needs.

304.9 Facilitate theological reflection in the practice of spiritual care.

305 Professional

The candidate for certification will demonstrate the ability to:

305.1 Promote the integration of Pastoral/Spiritual Care into the life and service of the institution in which it resides.

305.2 Establish and maintain professional and interdisciplinary relationships.

305.21 Demonstrate the ability to build peer relationships for the purpose of collaboration and active participation in the creation and maintenance of a healthy work environment.

305.3 Articulate an understanding of institutional culture and systems, and systemic relationships.

305.4 Support, promote, and encourage ethical decision-making and care.

305.41 Demonstrate skill in facilitating decision-making based on an understanding of culture/ethnicity, gender, race, age, educational background and theological values, religious heritage, behavioral sciences, networking, and systems thinking.

305.5 Document one’s contribution of care effectively in the appropriate records.

305.6 Foster a collaborative relationship with community clergy and faith group leaders.

306 Requirements for the Maintenance of Certification

In order to maintain status as a Certified Chaplain, the chaplain must:

306.1 Participate in a peer review process every fifth year.

306.2 Document fifty (50) hours of annual continuing education. (Recommendation that personal therapy, spiritual direction, supervision, and/or peer review be acceptable options for continuing education hours.)

306.3 Provide a copy of the page in the current National Chaplain Center roster which shows that they are endorsed and employed by the VA (regardless of contract, fee basis or employee status).

306.4 Be current in the payment of the NCVACC professional association’s annual dues.

306.5 Adhere to the NCVACC Code of Ethics for Chaplains.

307 Standards for Appeals of Certification Decisions

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The individual seeking an appeal of a certification decision:

307.1 Has a right to a timely and complete review of a negative recommendation.
307.2 Has access to a certification appeals panel free from conflict of interest, and panel members shall not have participated in the original recommendation.
307.3 Submits a written request for an appeal based on the grounds that such recommendation was an alleged violation of the Standards and/or Procedures.
307.4 Accepts the decision of the Certification Appeals Panel as final and binding for the association.