



## ACPE and HCCN Current State of Affairs

ACPE continues to hear from many members and students looking for guidance regarding the creation of the Spiritual Care Association (SCA) and the status of HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN)'s accreditation. Below are key points to help you regarding topics of accreditation, reciprocity, and recognition of CPE units and credentials.

### Key Points

- At its November 2017 meeting, the ACPE Accreditation Commission voted to suspend the accreditation of HealthCare Chaplaincy Network's CPE program. For more details, please reference the public notice posted on the [website](#).
  - HCCN must submit its responses to the ACPE Accreditation Commission on or before April 15, 2018. The commission will review the materials at its May 2018 meeting and then will take further action, either by removing the suspension if all expectations and requirements have been met or by withdrawing accreditation. Final notification will be made to the center on or before June 1, 2018.
- HCCN is allowed to complete units that were in progress, but not allowed to begin new units, or admit new students to its program.
- On January 4, 2018, HCCN publically announced that it is transitioning its accreditation to the Institute of Clinical Pastoral Training (ICPT). HCCN has not directly informed ACPE of its intention to withdraw its ACPE accreditation. HCCN's suspension is not a consequence of their announcement.
- ACPE does not have a reciprocity agreement or recognize ICPT CPE units or certification. Prospective students are encouraged to speak with their certifying agencies regarding recognition of CPE units.
- ACPE is still the only Department of Education (DOE)-recognized accrediting agency for CPE. According to the DOE, ICPT has **not** begun any process of seeking recognition as an accreditor. ICPT is, however, seeking accreditation from ACCET, The Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training.
- ACCET accredits institutions providing non-collegiate continuing education and training programs and which may be approved to award the validated CEU, certificates, and/or Occupational Associates Degrees. ICPT is on their agenda for their spring meeting.
- If ICPT is successful in its bid to be accredited by ACCET, their accreditation will not allow them to accredit other institutions since ICPT will not be a DOE-recognized accrediting agency.
- ICPT's certification agency for chaplaincy is the Association of Certified Christian Chaplains (ACCC). ACPE does not have reciprocity or recognition of ACCC certification.
- The Spiritual Care Associate (SCA) is an affiliate of HCCN created in 2016. SCA also credentials and certifies chaplains. ACPE does not have reciprocity or recognition of SCA certification.