



CPE at Hebrew SeniorLife
Jewish Geriatric Chaplaincy Education
One 12-15 month Program of Sequential CPE Units

Unit 1: September 8, 2025 – January 23rd, 2026

Unit 2: February 1 – June 12th, 2026

Unit 3: June 24 – October 16, 2026

see below for date details

Overview:

Hebrew SeniorLife is offering a new CPE program for 2025-2026 which will include three CPE units (Multilevel, including 1b, 2a, and 2b). Like a residency, the curriculum will be sequential, with one CPE cohort moving through the three units together, deepening their learning over the course of 15 months. Over the course of the program, students will have the experience of more fully integrating into their clinical placements than is possible in stand-alone units, and will be able to complete the required CPE units for certification in a condensed time period.

Through the lens of Jewish approaches to spiritual care with older adults, each unit will have a unique theme, including one focused on trauma-informed care and one focused on systems: families, groups, interdisciplinary teams and organizations. Attention will be brought to preparation for the certification process during the third of the three units. Students must commit to the sequence of at least the first two units, with a preference for those who can commit to all three units. Rabbi Beth Naditch, Director of CPE at HSL, will serve as Educator for the units.

Program Description:

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at HSL provides important skills and resources for healthcare, university, and other types of chaplains and for those pursuing



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the congregational rabbinate or ministry. The program is rooted in spiritual care with older adults, their families, and caregivers, and uses a Jewish lens. Attention is given to experiences and illnesses of aging (including care transitions and dementia), Chaplains support the spiritual and emotional lives of all patients in ways that enhance their overall wellbeing. In addition, chaplains assist the care-giving staff in managing the ongoing emotional demands of their work, which include the presence of death and loss on a regular basis. Chaplain interns also can be helpful to staff in increasing the understanding of the spiritual aspects of their patients' needs. Our setting requires that chaplains be attuned to Jewish religious/cultural approaches which patients have while facing the challenges of aging, loss, end of life decision making, dementia, and seeking spiritual fulfillment in their later years. Potential participants in HSL's CPE program should also be aware of and sensitive to the special needs and concerns of the wider Jewish community at this time.

The curriculum assists students in translating their developing skills to other kinds of settings. Students of any religious/spiritual tradition are invited to apply; those who wish to learn about spiritual care from the perspective of religious traditions other than Judaism are invited to make this one of their learning goals.

In this time of global uncertainty, the curriculum of this sequential program will equip students to address issues of universal concern such as trauma-informed care, recognizing resilience, and individual, collegial, and community support. We will explore the nexus between geriatric and pediatric spiritual care, both areas which are grounded in family systems. Expressive arts and narrative techniques will be woven throughout each unit. In the third unit of the program students will begin to work on their application materials for certification as professional chaplains.

English is the predominant language of the educational program, and applicants must be fully fluent in spoken and written English. Applicants who are also Russian/Ukrainian speakers are encouraged to apply, as a significant portion of HSL residents and patients speak Russian or Ukrainian.



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One program comprised of three CPE units

Dates:

Unit 1: September 8, 2025 – January 23rd, 2026 (during the month of the Jewish High Holy Days, the schedule will be adjusted. No class during Christmas/New Year's Week)

Unit 2: February 1 – June 12th, 2026 (no class for two weeks around Passover and Holy Week)

Unit 3: June 24 – October 16, 2026 (including a break for two weeks in August)

Note: Specific unit dates subject to slight changes

Fall and spring: Orientation will take place during the second and third week of Sept. (8th, 9th, 10th, 15th), with class sessions beginning the week of October 20th. We will not meet in between those two times in order to respect the *chagim* (Jewish High Holy Day season). Weekly class days are currently planned to be Monday and Wednesday, though this is dependent on several unknown factors and may be adjusted based on clinical placement site needs. The 8 hours of class per week will meet regularly on our Roslindale campus at 1200 Centre St., with some sessions at other HSL sites throughout the year. Some readings and written assignments are completed outside of this regular time frame.

Students will be required to complete 10-12 hours of clinical time per week, which can be scheduled in conjunction with your schedule and the needs of your assigned unit. Individual supervision is bi-weekly and counts as clinical time. We will not meet on national or major Jewish holidays, and there will be a break between semesters and during each unit. The CPE program does not require overnight call, and is appropriate for students who are shomer/et (observant of) Shabbat. Each student must be able to document completion of a minimum of 100 education hours, a minimum of 250 clinical hours, and a total of 400 hours in each unit, and demonstrate completion of the Outcomes and Indicators for their level of CPE in order to receive credit for the unit. Any hours over the required 400 are considered volunteer hours.



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No planned absences will be permitted during Orientation, Midunit Evaluations, or Final Evaluations for each unit.

Who may apply? This program is open to persons of any religious tradition interested in Jewish CPE with a focus on spiritual care of elders, who have at least 1 previous unit of ACPE accredited CPE or equivalent experience. E-mail bethnaditch@hsl.harvard.edu or cpe@hsl.harvard.edu with any questions.

Application process: Rolling admissions, with a preference for applicants who apply by April 21st. More information about Hebrew SeniorLife CPE and the application process can be found on our [website](#). Applicants should fill out the standard [ACPE application form](#).

Cost: \$36 application fee. Tuition is \$2500 for the two units, \$3600 for three units.. A \$600 non-refundable deposit upon accepting a position in the program is credited toward the total tuition payment. In the rare case where a student completes some of their clinical hours in their place of employment, tuition is \$3600 for the two units, \$5400 for three. Note: This option is not offered on a regular basis and is not guaranteed.

Transportation and Parking: Our Roslindale campus is accessible by Public Transportation: Orange Line T to Forest Hills, 38 bus Wren St. via Centre St. Students living close by in Jamaica Plain or Boston often walk or bike to this campus. Free parking is available. The easiest way to travel to NewBridge, our Dedham campus, is by car, however, HRC NewBridge is accessible by an HSL shuttle which connects to the Forest Hills T stop on the Orange Line. International students have often rented a car or participated in a car swap for the duration of the program. Parking at NewBridge is also free.

About Hebrew SeniorLife:

In the last 100 years, Hebrew SeniorLife (HSL) has grown from a small residence in Dorchester for frail elderly Jews to a highly integrated system of care for diverse older adults with an international reputation, encompassing housing, health care, and research. As a faith-based non-profit organization, Hebrew SeniorLife is grounded in a clear mission, of which our CPE program is a proud part. Our mission and heritage statement reads in part: "In the spirit of the Fifth Commandment, as illuminated by the traditions of the Jewish people, our



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mission is to honor our elders, by respecting and promoting their independence, spiritual vigor, dignity and choice, and by recognizing that they are a resource to be cherished. As part of our mission, we accept special responsibility for the frailest and neediest members of our community who are most dependent on our care. Everything we do flows from these tenets and is further inspired by the duty of *tikkun olam* -- to heal the world...Our history began with responding to the unique needs of a minority community that had suffered from anti-Semitism and often the traumas of war and immigration. This history informs our current commitment to serving communities in need, and intentionally welcoming people of all races, faiths, ethnic backgrounds, gender expression, and sexual orientations. In our senior living communities, outpatient and community-based services, long-term chronic care hospital and post-acute care units, the needs of our residents and patients come first and foremost. To this end, HSL is proud to serve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender seniors. Staff members throughout HSL are working to create an informed, welcoming and inclusive community for our LGBT residents and patients.”

Hebrew Rehabilitation Center (HRC) is the largest of HSL’s institutions, with campuses in Boston and in Dedham. The Roslindale campus offers long-term care, short-term post-acute care, medically complex care, adult day care, and outpatient specialty services. This care includes the outpatient Wolk Center for Memory Health which provides diagnosis, education, treatment, and care coordination for seniors and their families. NewBridge on the Charles, located in Dedham, offers independent and assisted living, in addition to long-term chronic care and short-term recuperative services. On its campus are located the offices for HSL’s hospice program and its Home Health Services, as well as the Rashi School, which is integrated into the daily life of patients and residents through multigenerational programming.

Four subsidized senior housing communities and one Continuing Care Retirement Community round out the HSL system: Center Communities of Brookline, Simon C. Fireman Community (Randolph), Jack Satter House (Revere), Orchard Cove (Canton), and Leland St. Residence in Dorchester. Most students will be assigned to either our Roslindale or our NewBridge campus, and will have the opportunity to offer spiritual support to patients, families, and staff.



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Over 60% of HSL's long-term chronic care patients in Roslindale (Boston) are Jewish, with half of these being Jews from the former Soviet Union; in Dedham, closer to 75% are Jewish. Patients on the Recuperative Services Units (RSU) and residents in housing reflect the more general population of the surrounding communities, with a broader mix of religions and cultures.

For more information contact:

Rabbi Beth Naditch: BethNaditch@hsl.harvard.edu (781) 234-9899
(email preferred to set up a time to talk)

Website:

<https://www.hebrewseniorlife.org/education-programs/spiritual-care-education>



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