



## Jewish Geriatric Chaplaincy Training

January 7 – April 10, 2025

Level IA and B and Level IIA and B CPE  
in Geriatrics or Pediatrics

Hebrew Rehabilitation Center, Roslindale

### **Introduction:**

In the last 100 years, Hebrew SeniorLife (HSL) has grown from a small residence for frail elderly in Dorchester to a highly integrated system of housing, day care, and health care with an international reputation. HSL's system encompasses 650 long-term chronic care hospital patients, groundbreaking senior care research (Marcus Institute for Aging Research), palliative and hospice care, rehabilitation services, and home care. HSL serves over 3000 older adults each day.

Hebrew Rehabilitation Center (HRC) is the largest of HSL's institutions, with campuses in Boston (Roslindale) and in Dedham. NewBridge on the Charles, located in Dedham, offers independent and assisted living as well as skilled nursing services and long-term chronic care. The Boston (Roslindale) campus offers long-term care, post-acute care, rehabilitation services, and outpatient specialty services.

This CPE unit will take place at Hebrew Rehabilitation Center (HRC) in Boston (Roslindale). Most students in this unit will be assigned to clinical time on this campus. A few students may be assigned to serve on other HSL campuses. One position is open for a student with previous CPE to do their clinical work at Boston Children's Hospital.

Over 60% of the long-term chronic care patients in Boston are Jewish, with half of these being Jews from the former Soviet Union; in Dedham, closer to 75% are Jewish. Patients on the rehabilitation and post-acute services units on both campuses reflect the more general population of the surrounding communities, including a mix of religions and cultures.

CPE at Hebrew Rehabilitation Center  
Accredited by ACPE: The Standard for Spiritual Care & Education  
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Boston Children's Hospital is a tertiary care, Level I Trauma, medical center located in the Longwood medical area. Patients come from Boston, the rest of the US, and many countries. The acuity of illness is very high. Amongst the patient population is a great diversity of racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds.

### **Program Description:**

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at HSL provides important formation, skills, and resources for the congregational rabbinate or ministry, and for healthcare chaplains. Chaplain interns support the spiritual and emotional lives of diverse patients and their family members in ways that enhance overall health and wellbeing. Chaplain interns also help the caregiving staff understand the spiritual aspects of their patients' needs, and manage the ongoing emotional demands of the staff's own work. The program provides students with attunement to Jewish religious and cultural approaches to facing the challenges of development, aging, loss, end of life decision making, dementia, and seeking spiritual fulfillment in late life. Special attention is given to the impact on spiritual caregiving of historical trauma, resilience, LGBTQ+ identities, and being nonreligious.

This unit of CPE is aimed at chaplains, congregational clergy, seminary and rabbinical students, and laypersons interested in pursuing spiritual care. English is the predominant language of the educational program, and applicants must be fluent in spoken and written English. Special opportunities are available for Russian-speaking applicants, as a significant portion of HSL residents, patients, and staff speak Russian. Thanks to a generous donor, one position is available for a student who already has completed a unit of CPE to do their clinical work at Boston Children's Hospital; supplemental opportunities to learn about pediatric chaplaincy are provided.

**Dates:** January 7 – April 10, 2025

**Times:** Class time is Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-4:00, with a break for school vacation week (February 18 and 20). Clinical time of 20 hours/week begins after orientation is completed on January 14. Clinical time can be scheduled to accommodate the student's schedule and the needs of their assigned clinical unit. Written assignments and readings are to be completed outside of the clinical hours. Individual supervision is scheduled for one hour bi-weekly. The CPE program does not require overnight call and is appropriate for students who are shomer/et Shabbat. Students must complete a minimum of 100 education hours, a minimum of 250 clinical hours, and a total of 400 hours in the CPE program and demonstrate the Outcomes and Indicators for their level of CPE (IA, IB, IIA, or IIB) in order to receive credit for the unit. Any hours over the required 400 are considered volunteer hours.

No planned absences will be permitted during orientation (January 7, 9, and 14), midunit evaluations (February 27), final evaluations (April 8), or the graduation siyyum (April 10).

**Faculty:** Rev. Mary Martha Thiel, ACPE Certified Educator, Board Certified Chaplain and Director of CPE at Hebrew SeniorLife, will lead the unit. Guest speakers will bring their expertise to didactic parts of the curriculum as well as to Jewish text study.

**Location:** 1200 Centre St., Boston MA 02131.

**Cost:** \$36 application fee. Tuition payment is \$1200. \$600 of tuition serves as a nonrefundable deposit when accepting a position in the program and is credited toward the total tuition payment.

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**Who may apply?** This program is open to persons of any religious/spiritual/meaning-making tradition interested in CPE with a focus on spiritual care of older adults, through a Jewish lens. Students must have access to a computer with good internet connection and private space for class and supervision in case of the need to meet virtually. E-mail [CPE@hsl.harvard.edu](mailto:CPE@hsl.harvard.edu) with any questions.

**Application process:** Applications are due September 1, 2024. More information may be found on our website, <https://www.hebrewseniorlife.org/education-programs/spiritual-care-education>. Please click the “Learn more and Apply” tab. You can find the standard ACPE application form as a fillable pdf under the “Attachments” tab. Please also note the Attendance Policy, Annual Notice, Admission Policy, Financial Policy, and Use of Clinical Materials Consent Form.

**By email:** Please fill out the above application and email to [cpe@hsl.harvard.edu](mailto:cpe@hsl.harvard.edu). (If you are printing it out to fill in, please scan and email back). A check for the \$36 application fee should be made out to “HSL CPE Fund” and mailed to CPE program, Hebrew SeniorLife, 1200 Centre St., Roslindale MA 02131, Attn. Naomi Fisher.

Interviews for candidates are scheduled once the full application is reviewed and the application fee is received. Should the applicant be invited to interview, the interview will be with the ACPE Certified Educators Rabbi Beth Naditch and Rev. Mary Martha Thiel and Certified Educator Candidate Rev. Katie Rimer.

*We will send our own reference form by email to the references you provide. Please let your references know that there is no need to send anything ahead of time. We move forward with admission decisions only after at least two of three references have been received. You will be informed of the admissions decision within one month of your interview or submission of a complete application. The decision is at the sole discretion of HSL.*

**Transportation and Parking:** HRC Boston 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 HRC. More adventurous bikers come from Brookline or Newton. International students have often rented a car for the duration of the program. Carpools with other students are encouraged for those living in close proximity to each other. Free parking is available.

**Housing, Meals, and Accommodations:** We are happy to assist international students in looking for host families, although we cannot offer housing directly. Students are also welcome to explore dormitory options at local theological schools.

Kosher breakfast and lunch can be purchased in the HRC cafeteria on non-holiday weekdays.

**For more information contact:**

Rev. Mary Martha Thiel, [Marymarthathiel@hsl.harvard.edu](mailto:Marymarthathiel@hsl.harvard.edu) Tel (617) 363-8804

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

Email: [CPE@HSL.Harvard.edu](mailto:CPE@HSL.Harvard.edu)

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