APPLICATION: Introduction to Buddhist Chaplaincy Training

IN-PERSON PARTICIPANT

All Are Welcome

This training is designed for and welcoming to a diverse population. With the intention to dissolve all barriers that perpetuate the suffering of separation, prejudice, and discrimination, we are dedicated to the inclusion of all races, classes, sexual orientations, gender identities, ages, disabilities, cultures, ethnicities, and other social identities.

We require applicants for our Buddhist Chaplaincy Training Program to complete this application form online. Since the application form is extensive and cannot be partially saved, we recommend drafting your answers first in a Word document or equivalent. For a PDF preview of the questions, go to: https://sati.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/PDF_APPLICATION_-Intro_to_Buddhist_Chaplaincy_Training.pdf

Once the form is submitted, you will receive an email with all of your responses and a link to edit any of your answers. We will only begin to consider fully completed forms, so we urge you not to leave any spaces blank. In case a question does not apply to you, write N/A in the answer field.

If you need to apply for financial assistance, please

The following questions are designed to probe the relevant areas of learning offered by our program.

We look forward to receiving your application and hearing from you soon.

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

2. 1. Full name *

3. 2. Name you prefer to be called

4. 3. Mailing Street Address

5. 4. City

6. 5. State

7. 6. Primary Phone Number

8. 7. What is your occupation or primary daily activity?

9. 8. What is your highest level of education? Are you enrolled in an academic program or course of study? If so, where, for how long and when will you complete?

10. 9. Do you have special skills? Please describe briefly. (i.e. healthcare, counseling, dharma teaching, foreign language, sangha leadership, conflict resolution, writing)

11. 10. Do you have any physical limitations with regards to accessing our classroom at Insight Meditation Center? If so, please describe briefly.

12. 11. Do you have any special needs with regards to undertaking a curriculum of study? If so, please describe briefly.

13. *12.* Who will be completing your Recommendation Form? Briefly explain your relationship with this person and why you have chosen them.

Spiritual Practice

We want to understand why you are applying to this training. Please tell us about your understanding and impressions of chaplaincy by responding to the following questions. Be as thoughtful and complete as you can by exploring your experiences, thoughts and feelings, expectations, and intentions.

Please write about a paragraph for each of the questions below.

14. Are you a member of a Buddhist community—formally or loosely—and if so, which one? Who is the leader(s) of this sangha? (If you are not Buddhist, please explain)

15. Describe your personal experience with spiritual/meditation practice (list daylong and multi-day retreats, practice periods, etc.)

16. Do you have a formal teacher-student relationship with a dharma teacher or clergy person? Name the sangha and the teacher. Will this person be writing your recommendation letter?

17. It is important for participants of this program to have good emotional support in their own lives. What are sources of emotional support for you?

18. If you are someone from a generally less represented population in the western dharma world, what kind of support would you find helpful in order to participate fully in this chaplaincy program?

19. Which social issues and considerations are an important element in your dharma practice? Explain why in 1-2 paragraphs

Caring Background

In the course of life, we all have opportunities to develop caring relationships as recipients and providers, in one form or another, such as loss, illness, trauma, homelessness, poverty, addiction, incarceration, and other concerns. Each of us has the capacity to embrace the suffering of another person and the ability to provide compassionate care to another. Our assumption is that every spiritual path can lead one to an opening of the heart and a wish to be of service.

20. In what way are you called to be of service? Is this a new experience for you? How do you envision this training to be of benefit to others? Explain in 1-2 paragraphs.

21. Describe an experience of helping others, i.e.: service work, caregiving relationships, volunteering, chaplaincy, hospice, teaching, parenting, mentoring, counseling, teaching, etc. This could include spending considerable time with someone in a crisis. What was that like for you? Explain in 1-2 paragraphs.

22. Do you have previous chaplaincy/spiritual caregiving experience? What arose for you and/or what did you learn about yourself? Explain in 1-2 paragraphs.

23. What kinds of people and/or situations have inspired you? Challenged you? Why? What types of people are you drawn to? Who are the people you want to be close to? Explain in 1-2 paragraphs with an example.

24. How have you related with others who are very different than you (i.e. religion/spiritual path, physical ability, socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, education)? Have you had the experience of providing care or support for them? How was that experience? Explain in 1-2 paragraphs with an example.

25. What behaviors by others are difficult for you understand, respect, support, or not and why? Explain in 1-2 paragraphs with an example.

Academics

This is a graduate-level training that includes several self-directed learning components. Participants commit to attending workshops, reading and writing, and completing 100 hours of service work. Participants are expected to manage their individual learning (attendance, assignments) and service work in terms of accountability, productivity, self-direction and clear communication. For seminary students, this course is appropriate for third year students who are called to ministries of spiritual care and chaplaincy.

26. How do you feel about the time and energy required to participate in this training?

27. How do you feel about the graduate-level academics and self-direction components of this training? Is there anything else you would like us to know in this regard?

28. Are you in the midst of a life transition such as marriage, retirement, children moving to college, loss of a family member, job, home, ability? Do you anticipate anything that may interfere with fulfilling the 11-month commitment to the training? (i.e. family obligations, plans for relocation, recent loss, unresolved authority issues, studies, extended retreat, financial concerns). Please explain briefly.

Self-Knowledge

Chaplaincy necessitates a high degree of self-knowledge. This training will introduce you to the following personal skills entailed in the provision of spiritual care:

- Identifying and disclosing your personal strengths and limitations

- Understanding your spiritual and religious heritage

- Identifying and discussing major life events, relationships, cultures, and social realities that impact you

- Articulating specific dharma teachings and spiritual values that significantly inform your dharma practice

- Identifying and describing how your attitudes, values, and assumptions affect your abilities to provide spiritual care

- Attending to your physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being

- Formulating clear and specific goals for continuing chaplaincy and/or spiritual formation as identified through self-reflection, and peer and supervisory feedback

29. How do you feel about the amount of self reflection and disclosure that is entailed in training to become a chaplain? Is there anything you would like us to know in this regard? Explain in 1-2 paragraphs.

30. Choose two skills from the list and describe what it will be like for you to develop them with intention and integrity. Write at least 1 paragraph for each skill.

31. What life experiences will support your ability to learn the above spiritual care skills?

32. Do you anticipate any significant obstacles or conditions that may obscure or interfere with your learning and your ability to support your peers in their complicate your learning? (i.e. traumatic history, a full schedule, care responsibilities for family, illness, chronic pain, authority issues, loss of a person or home or job, other academic studies, extended retreat plans, financial concerns, etc.)

Spiritual Care Practice

Chaplaincy entails special skills in working with others, including a diverse knowledge regarding religion, spirituality, diversity, psychology, social conditions, group dynamics, institutional norms, and the like. This training will introduce you to the the following spiritual care skills:

- Establishing, deepening, and concluding spiritual care relationships with sensitivity, openness, and respect.

- Providing a range of spiritual care practices, including listening/attending, empathic reflection, conflict resolution/ transformation, truth-telling, crisis management, and appropriate use of religious and spiritual resources.

- Respecting the physical, emotional, cultural, and spiritual boundaries of others. Demonstrating humility and respect accordingly.

- Incorporating a Buddhist approach to spiritual care based in the foundational theories of Buddhist spiritual care

- Appropriate use of self in service to others, including: emotional availability, cultural humility, appropriate self-disclosure, positive use of power and authority, a non-anxious and non-judgmental presence, and responsible boundaries

- Providing spiritual care to persons experiencing loss and grief in a variety of settings, including a working knowledge of the bereavement theory.

- Recognizing relational dynamics within group contexts and addressing power dynamics with respect and skillful facilitation.

- Offering appropriate and timely critique with clients, patients, co-workers, peers, and supervisors

- Developing, coordinating, and facilitating meditation, rituals, prayer, and spiritual practices appropriate to diverse settings and a range of spiritual needs. Assisting in the observance of ritual, worship, and other spiritual practices different from one's own.

33. What is your understanding of the work of chaplains and the interpersonal nature of chaplaincy? Explain in 1-2 paragraphs.

34. Choose two or three skills listed above and describe what it may be like for you to learn them. Write at least 1 paragraph for each skill.

35. Chaplains serve in a variety of contexts and are often called upon to offer prayer as comfort and support to those in crisis. What will it be like for you to pray with someone in your care, in their faith tradition? Explain in 1-2 paragraphs.

36. One aspect of this program is learning what we do not know, usually by way of others directing attention to our blind spots. What will it be like for you to receive critical feedback as you train in the spiritual care skills listed above? Explain in 1-2 paragraphs.

37. We invite you to read our statement of commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the context of this program. https://sati.org/programs/chaplaincy-training/statement-of-diversity-and-inclusion/

What are your expectations regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion in chaplaincy training? Are there any additional thoughts or feelings that come up for you in this regard? Explain in 1-2 paragraphs. While we want know your answers to these questions, please keep in mind that the chaplaincy program does not have a strong focus on training in diversity, inclusion, and equity. These are topics integrated into some of the elements of the program. Explain in 1-2 paragraphs.

Finally...

Thank you for considering the Sati Center's Buddhist Chaplaincy Training Program as an opportunity for learning, practice, and service. We appreciate the time and thought involved in completing this application.

38. In completing this application, is there anything else you would like us to know?

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