

Requirements for Certification 2026

<All certifications are based on the assumption that the candidate is a member in good standing with CPSP-Philippines and active in a chapter.>

I. Requirements for Certification for CTM to the SIT Program

There are different certifications with CPSP-Philippines. These are Clinically Trained Minister (CTM), Associate Clinical Chaplain (ACC), Associate Pastoral Counselor (APC), Clinical Chaplain (CC), and Pastoral Counselor (PC). ACC and APC are now no longer separated. The same is true of CC and PC. Supervisor-in-Training is a training program, not a certification.

	CTM	ACC/APC	CC/PC	SIT
CPE Units Completed <Note 1>	1	2	4	4
Masters Degree in Divinity, Theology, Counseling, or similar field. <Note 1>	Yes	Yes (or 4 Units CPE as substitute for Masters)	Yes	Yes
Ordination or Recognition as a Minister in one's own faith group	Yes	No	No	No
Letter of Ecclesiastical Endorsement	Yes, if appropriate in candidate's faith group	Yes, if appropriate in candidate's faith group	Yes, if appropriate in candidate's faith group	<Note 2>
Submit Written Autobiographic Sketch (10 pages or less)	Yes	Yes	Yes	<Note 2>
Submit Written Recent Clinical Case Studies	2 Cases	2 Cases	2 Cases	<Note 2>
Submit Written Comprehensive Theological Integration Paper	Yes	Yes	Yes	<Note 2>
Full-time pastoral/counseling experience	No	No	No	1-year minimum
Evidence of personal, professional, and academic competence in areas relating to Pastoral Care & Counseling	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Knowledge of, and assent to, CPSP Code of Ethics	Yes	Yes	Yes	<Note 2>
Chapter Personal Assessment and Oral Review (2 hours or less)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Acceptance by a Diplomat/supervisor and the Diplomat's chapter	No	No	No	Yes

NOTE 1: Request for equivalency of education may be submitted to Chapter Certification Committee for Review/Assessment.

NOTE 2: SIT must already have been certified for CC/PC, and must be accepted under the tutelage of a Diplomat Supervisor.

II. Sub-specialties

CPSP-Philippines allows for sub-specialties within the normal certification system. A couple of examples of sub-specialties is Palliative/Hospice Chaplaincy, and Corporate Chaplaincy. To be eligible for a sub-specialty, the candidate must:

- Be certified CC/PC
- Have successfully completed one full unit in the specialized setting under the direct supervision of a Supervisor-in-Training or Diplomate Supervisor who has been granted this subspecialty
- Received recommendation from his or her supervisor in the specialty.
- Integration paper in the bringing chaplaincy, theology, and specialty together.
- Approved by the Standards Committee.

III. Diplomate Supervisor in Clinical Pastoral Training/Education (Supervisor)

Requirements:

- Served as a Supervisor-in-training for a minimum of 5 full units.
- Be supervised by a Diplomate during those same 5 full units, with supervisory reviews
- Recommended by Diplomate.
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) submitted with all educational and ministerial attainments that are relevant for being a Supervisor.
- Reviewed and approved by Standards Committee. This review may be done in the form of an oral board or not.

Note: We are still developing our program in terms of developing Diplomate Supervisors. Other requirements may be added at a later date.

IV. Units that have come from another certifying organization.

CPSP-Philippines normally accepts units from other organizations that are certified from a legitimate certifying body. Whenever possible, we accept other units “one-for-one” when equivalency of programs can be demonstrated. That being said, CPSP-Philippines makes no promise to accept units from another group where there is no formal Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). In cases of units that were done where legitimacy of the program is uncertain, such cases will be evaluated individually. If a unit cannot be accepted as fully equivalent, a supervisor has the right to accept an outside unit in part rather than as a whole. For example, a unit from an outside organization can be accepted as a half unit, or weeks towards a full unit, or a CPO (Clinical Pastoral Orientation).

Certifications from outside organizations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis where there is no previous MOA.

MOAs will normally developed when two criteria are met:

- Equivalency. Having similar requirements and standards
- Reciprocity. Both organizations recognize the units of the other (not one direction only).

For SITs or Supervisors from other certifying bodies, being supervised by a CPSP-Philippines diplomate is important to ensure that the standards, ethics, and philosophy of CPSP-Philippines is followed.