

*American Association of  
Pastoral Counselors*

*Northeast Region*

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Pastoral Care Specialists**

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and lay pastoral care-givers in  
congregational and institutional settings**



Pastoral  
Care  
Specialist

*A Training Program for  
health professionals, pastors  
and lay care-givers*

*Wholeness and Healing of  
Mind and Body  
Heart and Soul  
through the resources of  
Faith and Psychotherapy*

# **1) TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PASTORAL CARE SPECIALISTS**

**Sponsored by the Northeast Region of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors**

Pastoral Care Specialist (PCS) is a category of membership in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC), approved to provide skilled pastoral care in congregations and institutions.

**This Pastoral Care Specialist program offers training to health practitioners, pastors and lay pastoral care givers who seek to strengthen personal and professional identity, spirituality, and pastoral care practice by integrating the resources of one's faith tradition with practical skills from the behavioral sciences.**

**The Pastoral Care Specialist receives guidance regarding the limits of supportive pastoral care, including criteria for making referrals to qualified counseling professionals.** Upon receiving their certificate of completion, Pastoral Care Specialists will participate in ongoing consultation and review, at least quarterly, of professional work and personal development. They will also qualify for membership in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors in the Pastoral Care Specialist category.

**This course is intended for laypersons – nurses, therapists, institutional chaplains, pastoral care ministers, seminary students, - and for those persons who are already functioning as a parish minister, rabbi, imam, or military chaplain.**

The Pastoral Care Specialist **curriculum** will include the following elements:

- A. Pastoral care theology and principles
- B. Spiritual assessment, diagnosis, and interventions
- C. Supportive counseling methods for individuals, marriages and families
- D. Development challenges across the lifespan
- E. Grief and loss, e.g. divorce recovery, traumatic stress, major illnesses...
- F. Crisis intervention
- G. Domestic violence and abuse
- H. Substance abuse and addiction
- I. Ethics of brief supportive counseling: scope, limits and referrals

**Each program of study is tailored to respond to participants' specific needs and ministries.**

The Pastoral Care Specialist **training program** consists of:

- clinical case conferences
- didactics - psychoeducation
- peer groups
- formation papers
- on-going consultations

**For more information, contact:**

Laurence Heckscher, D Min, LPP, LMHC, at 603 890 6767, ext. 122

Aaron Pawelek, LICSW, MSW, MTS at 603 890 6767, ext. 107

## **2) Locations and Schedules**

The full program consists of 16 weekly 3-hour seminars:

Fall session: Pastoral Care Foundations (8 weekly 3-hour seminars)

Spring session: Advanced Pastoral Care (8 weekly 3-hour seminars)

The same program will be offered in two different locations:

**New Hampshire** location and schedule:

15 Ermer Road, suite 215  
Salem, NH 03079

Wednesday mornings 9:00 am to 12 noon

Session 1: 8 weekly seminars from September 21 to November 9

Session 2: 8 weekly seminars from February 16 to April 5

**Massachusetts** location and schedule:

5 Summer Street  
Lynnfield, MA 01940

Thursday mornings, 9:00 am to 12 noon

Session 1: 8 weekly seminars from September 22 to November 10

Session 2: 8 weekly seminars from February 17 to April 6

## **3) Fees**

The full program costs \$1200: \$600 for the Fall session and \$600 for the Spring session.

Need-based grants may be available.

## **4) Application Form**