



4915 S. Howell Avenue
Suite 501
Milwaukee, WI 53207-5939
Telephone: 414.483.4898
Fax: 414.483.6712

www.nacc.org

National Association of Catholic Chaplains

- 1965 NACC was established by the United States Catholic Bishops to provide training and certification to Catholic priests serving in health care settings.
- 1973 NACC began also to board certify religious and lay men and women.
- NACC has been a partner association in all major dialogues among professional chaplaincy associations since the 1980's, starting with "Dialogue '88" Joint Conference on Pastoral Care.
- 2004 NACC collaborated with Association of Professional Chaplains, Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains, American Association of Pastoral Counseling, and Canadian Association of Spiritual Care on creation of foundational documents for certifying:
 - Common Standards for Professional Chaplaincy
 - Common Standards for Pastoral Educators/Supervisors
 - Common Code of Ethics for Chaplains, Pastoral Counselors, Pastoral Educators and Students
 - Principles for Processing Ethical ComplaintsThis collaboration established a unified voice for the six organizations (representing over 10,000 members) that affirmed them.
- NACC Standards and Procedures for Certification of Chaplains align with these Common Standards above, and also include specific standards for Catholic ministry that align with the USCCB National Certification Standards, that are approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Subcommittee for the Certification of Ecclesial Ministry and Service - most recently in 2014 until 2021.
- To become board certified, one needs to have:
 - Current ecclesial endorsement
 - Graduate-level theological degree from a college, university, or theological school accredited by a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation
 - Minimum of four units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)
 - Submitted a dossier demonstrating successfully meeting Standards, and passed a peer review board.
- NACC currently has **about 2200 members** that include:
 - 55 percent are lay women (40%) and men (15%)
 - 23 percent are religious sisters
 - 18 percent are priest
 - 4 percent are religious brothers and permanent deacons.
- NACC board certifies **nearly 100 chaplains** annually to serve in diverse healthcare settings, including providing a certification specialty in palliative care and hospice.
- Once a member is board certified he or she must **maintain 50 hours** of annual continuing education and **renew one's certification every five years**, including current endorsement from the ordinary of the diocese where that member is ministering and a peer review.