Graduate Degree Equivalency Form for
BCC Applicants Instruction Sheet

QUA3: Have completed a Bachelor's degree from a college, university, or theological school accredited by a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (www.chea.org); and a graduate-level theological degree from a college, university or theological school accredited by a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Equivalencies for the Bachelor's and/or graduate level theological degree will be granted by the individual professional organizations according to their own established guidelines, as some educational institutions award a combined Bachelor's/Master's degree diploma.

*Graduate-level theological degree
The NACC defines a graduate-level theological degree as a graduate degree in theology, divinity, religious studies, pastoral ministry, pastoral studies, or spirituality.

Eligibility for applying for a BCC Graduate-level Theological Equivalency

- The BCC applicant needs to have completed graduate-level degree in some field, preferably in a spiritual care related field, to demonstrate capability of spiritual care competence.
- The BCC applicant will need to evidence the completion of at least thirty-two (32) graduate semester credits of equivalencies in core theological coursework pertinent to NACC Competencies for Certification. (Please see pages 2-3 for information on various ways to evidence these graduate semester credits.)

Certification Competencies

ITP2: Incorporate a working knowledge of psychological and sociological disciplines and religious beliefs and practices in the provision of spiritual care.
  ITP2.1 Demonstrate an understanding of Vatican II and Post Vatican II documents of the Church, Systematic/Foundational Theology, Scripture, Theology of the Trinity, Christology, Ecclesiology, Sacramental Theology, Catholic Social Teaching, Canon Law, Ecumenical and Interreligious Practice.
  ITP2.2 Articulate an understanding of one's baptismal call and chaplaincy as a ministry of the church.

ITP4: Incorporate a working knowledge of different ethical theories appropriate to one's professional context.
  ITP 4.1 Demonstrate an understanding of The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services.

The Applicant for Graduate Degree Equivalency must evidence graduate-level familiarity with the following subjects recognized by the NACC as Theologically Related:

- Dogmatic/Systematic Theology (Vatican II/Post Vatican II studies in Trinity, Christology, Ecclesiology, Sacraments, Liturgy)
- Scriptures: Hebrew and Christian
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Ethics/Moral Theology (in addition to The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services)
- Pastoral Theology and Ministry

They can also include:
- Canon Law
- Ecumenism
- Interreligious/Interfaith Practice
How to count what counts?

What will be allowed to count toward evidencing the thirty-two (32) graduate-level semester credit equivalency in core theological coursework pertinent to NACC Competencies for Certification?

1. Graduate-level theological course work (as many as applicable)
   a. What is needed: Transcripts
   b. Each credit is considered 1 graduate semester credit

2. Graduate-level theological course work from a non-CHEA-accredited school (up to 15 graduate semester credits)
   a. What is needed - Transcripts
   b. Each credit is considered .5 graduate semester credit (1 credit = .5 credit)

3. Professional ministry training programs applicable to pastoral care ministry (up to 16 graduate semester hours)
   a. What is needed - Proof of completion from the institution including curriculum, hours required, and fulfillment expectations (lay formation or permanent diaconate program)
   b. Every 100 hours is 1 graduate semester credit

4. Professional development, such as, audited graduate courses, continuing education (up to 10 graduate semester hours)
   a. What is needed - Listing of event title, date, CEU’s or total hours (50-60 min.)
   b. Every 100 hours is 1 graduate semester credit

5. NACC-approved webinars, e-learning sessions, or webinar recordings (contact NACC for approved listing), (up to 10 graduate semester credits)
   a. What is needed - Listing of event title, date, CEU’s or total hours (50-60 min.)
   b. Every 100 hours is 1 graduate semester credit

6. Mentored/Supervised Education, such as accredited CPE units (see QUA 4) or supervised education by other qualified mentors (up to 6 graduate semester credits)
   a. What is needed – from mentor/supervisor, a statement of what was offered and number of hours (CPE units beyond the 4 required units are eligible)
   b. Every 100 hours is 1 graduate semester credit

7. Professional/Pastoral teaching/writing (presentations, published writings, etc.) that evidence knowledge and application of theological areas of study (up to 6 graduate semester credits)
   a. What is needed – professional theological/pastoral research published in journals, conferences or professional/pastoral formation level courses, seminars, retreats with number of hours involved or required
   b. Every 100 hours is 1 graduate semester credit
8. **Pastoral Ministry experience (up to 6 graduate semester-credits)**
   a. What is needed – 1. From BCC, ACPE Educator, or Pastor/Ministry Supervisor (with credentials) who has known applicant for at least two years who can attest to applicants work and hours committed to work, and 2. From applicant 2-page essay on work and how work required knowledge/competence in areas of competencies.
   b. Every 100 hours is 1 graduate semester credit

9. **Graduate Degree, CHEA accredited, with content pertinent to chaplaincy (up to 15 graduate semester credits)**
   a. What is needed – Transcripts and Essay describing how the education applies to chaplaincy ministry (up to 2 pages)
   b. Each credit is considered 1 graduate semester credit

10. **Theological coursework in upper-level (Junior/Senior year - level #300 and up) undergraduate studies coursework to supplement the degree (up to 6 graduate semester credits)**
    a. What is needed – Transcripts and Essay describing how the education applies to spiritual care/chaplaincy ministry (up to 2 pages)
    b. Each credit is considered .5 graduate semester credit