

# GENERAL INFORMATION BROCHURE

## Benefits of Membership

Continuing Education Credits  
Client & Trainee Referrals (Certified Members)  
Professional Liability Insurance Program  
Certificate  
Collegiality/Affiliation  
Publications  
Discounts  
Access to **Members Only** section on AAPC Web Site  
Free Advertising in Newsletter for Jobs/Training  
Advertising for Jobs / Training On-line  
Networking Opportunities  
Marketing Support  
Advocacy- Federal & State Government,  
Health Systems (managed care)  
Annual Association & Regional Conferences

## Membership Annual Dues/Processing Fees

Diplomate	\$315 / \$175
Fellow	\$315 / \$175
Certified Pastoral Counselor	\$254 / \$175
Pastoral Counseling Educator	\$146 / \$35
Pastoral Care Specialist	\$146 / \$35
Member	\$146 / \$35
Member (PCT)	\$146 / \$35
Member (International)	\$ 24 / \$35
Student Member	\$ 40 / \$10

All applications may be obtained either by writing, calling or emailing the AAPC Association Office or, referring to our web site, [www.aapc.org](http://www.aapc.org). If you have any questions regarding the standards for membership, or the contents of this brochure please contact the Association Office.

This material is subject to change.



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## **GENERAL Membership Categories**

### **Member (Pastoral Counselor-in-Training)**

Member (PCT) is a category for people actively engaged in the process of preparing for Certified Pastoral Counselor.

Standards for Member (PCT):

**Ministry:**

Be a minister in good standing, a candidate for the ministry or be recognized by one's local religious community as preparing for the ministry of pastoral counseling. Submit a letter from your local religious community stating that you have an active relationship with that community and are a minister in good standing, candidate for ministry or pastoral counseling.

**Education:**

Hold at least a Bachelors degree. Submit official transcripts.

**Certified Pastoral Counselor Plan:**

Submit a specific plan for meeting Certified Pastoral Counselor standards within 5 years of acceptance of Member (PCT).

### **Student Member**

The Student Member is for students enrolled in seminary or an academic program – undergraduate or graduate. Applicants should have an inquiry level of interest in the field of pastoral counseling. It is a temporary status, valid only while enrolled in a degree program and for 1 year past graduation.

### **Institutional Membership**

AAPC also offers institutional membership to pastoral counseling centers and training programs in pastoral counseling through accreditation or affiliation. Please contact the AAPC Association Office for further information.

## **CERTIFIED Membership Categories**

### **Certified Pastoral Counselor**

Certified Pastoral Counselor is a pastoral counselor who provides pastoral counseling under direct supervision.

Standards for Certified Pastoral Counselor:

**Endorsement:**

Hold membership in good standing in a recognized religious endorsing body. Submit "Religious Endorsing Body" form or Mutual Accountability documentation.

**Local Religious Community:**

Submit a letter verifying your active relationship with your local religious community.

**Pastoral Identity Statement:**

Submit a 1,000-word statement addressing your pastoral identity in the ministry of pastoral counseling.

**Service in Ministry Statement:**

Give evidence of 3 years of service in ministry, including a brief, written description of service to and participation in your religious endorsing body or alternative endorsing community.

**Counseling/Supervision:**

Complete a minimum of 375 hours of pastoral counseling provided while receiving 125 hours of supervision of that counseling. One-third of required supervision must come from an AAPC Diplomate or Fellow or an AAPC approved training program.

**Education:**

Hold a BA degree. Hold an MA or Doctoral level degree. Graduate degree may be in Divinity, Theological, Spiritual or Biblical Studies or a degree in Pastoral Counseling. Submit official transcripts.

**Self-Reflective Pastoral Experience:**

Complete supervised self-reflective pastoral experience, the most common of which is CPE.

## **GENERAL Membership Categories**

### **Pastoral Care Specialist**

PCS is a category for clergy and laypersons who have special training in brief, supportive pastoral care & counseling.

#### Standards for PCS:

##### **Religious Community Relationship:**

Hold an active relationship with your local religious community. Submit a letter from an official of that community stating your active relationship.

##### **Recognized Ministry of Pastoral Care:**

Participate in a recognized ministry of pastoral care. Submit a letter verifying your participation.

##### **Consultation Experience:**

Complete 50 hours of small-group consultation from an AAPC Diplomate, Fellow or approved program. Deal with such topics as crisis intervention, grief and loss, divorce recovery and the application of pastoral care principles in the broader functions of ministry. Individual consultation of up to 20 hours may be substituted for 20 hours of group supervision when necessary. Submit a letter from the consultant verifying completion of this training.

##### **On-Going Consultation:**

PCS's should engage in quarterly consultation with an AAPC Fellow or Diplomate or with a non-AAPC **approved** supervisor.

### **Pastoral Counseling Educator**

PCE is a category for ministers who provide educational and theoretical leadership in pastoral counseling, pastoral care, pastoral theology, psychology of religion and related fields.

#### Standards for PCE:

##### **Doctoral Degree:**

Hold a doctoral degree from a university or seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools or by an agency recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Education. Submit official transcript for doctoral degree.

## **GENERAL Membership Categories**

### **Pastoral Counseling Educator (cont.)**

##### **Academic Appointment:**

Be actively involved in the field teaching and/or academic supervision of pastoral counseling students. Submit a letter from the Dean or other appropriate official of your employing institution describing your position, detailing your responsibilities in teaching and/or supervision of pastoral care and counseling students. Submit a statement outlining ways in which students are informed about AAPC and encouraged toward AAPC membership & participation.

##### **Religious Community Relationship:**

Hold an active relationship with your local religious community. Submit a letter from an official of that community stating your active relationship.

### **Member**

Member is a category for professionals in ministry and pastoral counseling, or individuals in human service professions who are duly licensed or certified by a state or province or who are otherwise credentialed by a professional human service association.

#### Standards for Member:

##### **Professional Credentials:**

###### *Clergy Applicants-*

Submit evidence of ordination, consecration or other clergy status.

###### *Non-Clergy Applicants-*

Submit current evidence of state/provisional license. If you do not have state/provisional licensure, submit evidence of membership in an organization recognized by AAPC. This document must provide evidence of accountability relative to submitted credentials.

##### **Letters of Recommendation:**

###### *Religious Community-*

Submit letter from an official in your local religious community stating your active relationship with them.

###### *Professional-*

Submit letter of recommendation from an AAPC certified member.

## **CERTIFIED Membership Categories**

### **Fellow (AAPC Track)**

Fellow is a pastoral counselor who has completed standards for academic and clinical preparation, demonstrates pastoral identity in counseling, and who provides leadership in interpreting pastoral counseling to the larger community. **Applicants for Fellow must have met Certified Pastoral Counselor standards.**

Standards for Fellow (AAPC Track):

**Endorsement:**

Same as Certified Pastoral Counselor requirement.

**Local Religious Community:**

Same as Certified Pastoral Counselor requirement.

**Pastoral Identity Statement:**

Same as Certified Pastoral Counselor requirement.

**Service in Ministry Statement:**

Same as Certified Pastoral Counselor requirement.

**Education:**

Complete requirements of the Body of Knowledge for AAPC, a minimum of 58 semester hours of study which may include and/or extend beyond a basic professional degree.

**Counseling, Supervision & Training:**

Complete a minimum of 1,375 hours of pastoral counseling provided while receiving 250 hours of supervision of that counseling. One-third of the supervision must be with an AAPC Diplomat or Fellow or come from an AAPC approved training program.

**Self Understanding:**

Give evidence of having undergone sufficient theological and therapeutic investigation of applicant's own intrapsychic and interpersonal process.

**Theory of Therapy Paper:**

Demonstrating the integration of theology and clinical practice.

## **CERTIFIED Membership Categories**

### **Fellow (Mental Health Track)**

Fellow (MH) applicants must be theologically educated **and** certified by another mental health specialty or hold state licensure/certification in a mental health discipline.

Standards for Fellow (MH Track):

**Endorsement:**

Same as Certified Pastoral Counselor requirement.

**Local Religious Community:**

Same as Certified Pastoral Counselor requirement.

**Pastoral Identity Statement:**

Same as Certified Pastoral Counselor requirement.

**Education:**

Complete a graduate degree. This degree may be a Master of Divinity, MA or Doctoral level degree in theological, spiritual or biblical studies or Pastoral Counseling. Complete the Body of Knowledge requirements.

**Professional Credentials:**

Submit current state licensure, certification and other supporting documents.

**Self Understanding:**

Give evidence of having undergone sufficient theological and therapeutic investigation of applicant's own intrapsychic and interpersonal process.

**Theory of Therapy Paper:**

Demonstrating the integration of theology and clinical practice.

### **Diplomate**

To qualify as a Diplomat, applicants must first be certified as an AAPC Fellow. Applicants who wish to apply for Diplomat may contact the Association Office for more information.