

Outline For Learning Covenant

The CPE Program at AWHCSC seeks to encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning and to help students cultivate the skills necessary both to formulate goals and to utilize feedback and consultation. Accordingly, ACPE Certified Educators at this center expect each student to take the initiative in deciding what she or he wants to learn. The student will develop a written proposal of goals to be pursued during the unit of CPE, the methods she or he will use to pursue these goals, and the criteria and manner for evaluating progress. The student's supervisor is available for dialogue and to help the student refine her or his goals. Students can renegotiate goals as the foci of learning shift or become clearer. The Learning Covenant is a touchstone for supervisor and students as they go through the unit.

Goals need to be:

1. Realistic
2. Specific
3. Appropriate to the clinical setting and limits of the CPE Program
4. Measurable and observable

In formulating their goals, students should review "The Objectives of Clinical Pastoral Education Programs" that ACPE, Inc., has established. These objectives address issues of personal and professional identity. The following questions can help students fashion their goals.

1. About what am I motivated to learn now? Where do I feel uncomfortable and want to grow?
What area of the CPE Program excites my curiosity?
2. What am I willing to do to reach my goal?
3. What benefit will I gain by accomplishing this goal?
4. How will I know when I have reached my goal?
5. What can I lose by sabotaging myself concerning this goal? How can I set up sabotage?

The following is an example of a learning goal.

Goal: To understand a patient's need.

Process: Learn the location of the patient chart
Communicate with staff about the patient
Use listening skills to attend to patient needs
Reflect on my progress in verbatim work and supervision
Use Pastoral Care Staff and my peers for feedback

Evaluation: By noting progress made in my verbatim work
By making meaningful chart notes
By processing feedback I receive from peers and supervisor