



## ***The Chaplaincy Institute and Starr King School for the Ministry Joint Program***

### **Background**

Beginning in May 2014, The Chaplaincy Institute (ChI) and Starr King School for the Ministry (SKSM) have been formally affiliated through our Joint Program for Interfaith Chaplaincy. The purpose of this affiliation is to integrate the ChI Certificate of Interfaith Studies into Starr King's accredited master's degree programs (Master of Divinity or Master of Arts in Social Change), thereby providing a pathway for students to meet both the educational and ecclesiastical requirements for certification as a professional chaplain.

In an era where chaplaincy is taking many new forms, and in many different and new contexts, it is good and right to be engaged in the work of preparing religious leaders who will be able to mindfully respond, in a broad variety of religious traditions with respect, preparedness and compassion. This is a core value for both schools.

### **Precedent**

To receive "board-certified chaplain" status from the Board of Chaplaincy Certification, Inc. (BCCI), an affiliate of the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC), requires a 72-credit Master's degree (or its equivalent) from a seminary accredited by a member of the Council for Higher Education (such as SKSM), and endorsement/support by a recognized faith group. The ChI Interfaith Community is a religious, ordaining entity that has been recognized as an Ecclesiastical Endorsing body by both the APC and the ACPE (Association for Clinical Pastoral Education). This "ChI-SKSM Joint Program for Interfaith Chaplaincy" is especially intended for students whose vocational aim is to become a board-certified chaplain.

### **Collaborative Curriculum, Credits Awarded**

#### ***For Interfaith Chaplaincy***

Through this affiliation, ChI and SKSM agree to admit students jointly, allowing students to pursue both a ChI Interfaith Studies Certificate and a SKSM M.Div. or M.A.S.C. degree

concurrently, with the ChI certificate as an integral component of earning their SKSM degree. A total of 18 credits towards meeting the requirements of an SKSM M.Div. or M.A.S.C. degree will be awarded to students who commit to and complete the full ChI program as part of their SKSM degree.

### ***For Interfaith Spiritual Direction***

In 2015, ChI's Interfaith Spiritual Direction Certificate Program was acknowledged as also being included in this affiliation, with 8 units of credit given toward Starr King's master's degrees.

### ***For Interfaith Chaplaincy AND Spiritual Direction***

Starr King M.Div. students may apply to take both of the Interfaith Studies and Spiritual Direction tracks at ChI for credit at Starr King, however there is no guarantee that students can do both. Giving access to ChI classes to a large group of students will be a priority. Students will be accepted into each program separately and cannot participate in them concurrently. If both ChI programs are taken, students will earn 26 units of total credit at Starr King.

## **Admission and Enrollment**

### ***New Joint Program Students***

In the preferred and usual circumstances, it is expected and encouraged that a student will apply for joint admission prior to beginning either school's program. Please submit Joint Program application materials. Once accepted by both schools, students can complete the enrollment process and begin studying at SKSM in January or August and the following applies:

- For pedagogical reasons, students need to be well-grounded in the ECO philosophy of SKSM and are required to take the ECO seminar (offered in January and August each year) before studying at ChI.
- All entering students will ground their studies at SKSM-GTU for at least one term before they can take courses at ChI.
- Students registering for ChI modules, should do so in consultation with their Advisor.

### ***Current ChI Students***

If a ChI student who has completed part or the entire ChI program(s) wishes to apply for admission to a SKSM Master's program (M.Div. or M.A.S.C.), the student will be welcome to do so. If admitted, SKSM will specify the academic credit for the part of the ChI program that the ChI student has completed; this amount will be applied to the total credits required to receive the degree being pursued. These students need to meet the requirements of students transferring credits to SKSM.

### ***Current SKSM Students***

If a SKSM student who has completed part of their SKSM M.Div. or M.A.S.C. degree wishes to apply for admission to either ChI certificate program, this is possible by joint agreement of the two institutions. In general terms, this is possible only in cases where the student still needs 18

or more credit hours to complete their SKSM degree and has a clear vocational plan to become an interfaith chaplain or spiritual director or feels a call to interfaith ordination. SKSM students who wish to apply to ChI later in their program must submit an application to Rev. Chris Schlein, the Director of Contextual Education; admission would follow upon approval by both SKSM and ChI leadership. Students who pursue study at ChI must follow the SKSM requirements listed above for new students into the Joint Program. Additionally:

- To ensure the financial sustainability of the program, SKSM monitors and at times limits the number of students that can take ChI modules each term. Enrolling Joint Program students have priority.
- Students will be put on a waiting list and will be notified by SKSM when they can start studying at ChI. The soonest ChI modules are available for Joint Program students starting their studies at Starr King is currently in July, 2017.

### **Financial Aid**

Students in the Joint Program are eligible for financial aid and/or scholarships through Starr King and the Graduate Theological Union. They are not eligible for work study, scholarships or financial aid at ChI.

### **More Information**

**ChI** - Admissions Manager at [admissions@chaplaincyinstitute.org](mailto:admissions@chaplaincyinstitute.org) / 510-631-3066 or

**SKSM**- Admissions Coordinator, Em Kianka at [EKianka@sksm.edu](mailto:EKianka@sksm.edu) / 510-549-4704