

Questions & Answers for MSSC Degree

- 1. Is a Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree required to become a Board-Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC)?**

No.

The qualifications for Board Certification with APC are:

A person who has demonstrated professional excellence as a chaplain, meeting all eligibility requirements including a bachelor's degree, 72-semester-hour graduate theological degree from an accredited school, four units of clinical pastoral education (CPE), and endorsement/support by a recognized faith group, is recommended by a Certification Committee, approved by the Commission on Certification, and ratified by the Board of Chaplaincy Certification Inc. Board of Directors. <https://bcciprofessionalchaplains.org/content.asp?admin=Y&pl=16&sl=16&contentid=30>

- 2. Is the Master of Science in Spiritual Care (MSSC) at AHU accredited and recognized for professional qualifications?**

Yes.

The MSSC degree at AHU has initial accreditation from Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA) and has been approved by the US Department of Education to qualify for Title IV funding, which provides students with access to federal and private financial aid programs.

This accreditation status is recognized for endorsement, hiring, and Board Certification.

- 3. Can a student get Ecclesiastical Endorsement with the MSSC degree?**

Yes.

Different faith groups have different standards for Ecclesiastical Endorsement. Please connect with your faith group leadership for details related to endorsement for you.

As a part of the relationship between AdventHealth University and the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the degree program leadership have worked directly with Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) to address their qualifications for faith group endorsement. Students seeking endorsement from ACM have an externship requirement which was designed with ACM leaders to ensure qualification for endorsement, ordination and/or commissioning.