



PROJECT TITLE: Professional Healthcare Chaplaincy Certification

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 07-06191.UL

PIs: Ryan Combs

RESEARCH THEME: Population Health

BUDGET: \$50,000

UNIVERSITY: UL

PROJECT YEAR: 1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Recent developments in healthcare and chaplaincy provide a rationale to take a careful look at professional chaplaincy education and certification processes to ensure they are continuing to serve the profession and industry as well as possible. The purpose of this study is to understand the strengths of current chaplaincy certification processes as well as to identify concerns and questions about the processes involved in professional spiritual care certification.

HOW THIS IS DIFFERENT THAN RELATED RESEARCH:

No one has undertaken a formal examination of the healthcare chaplaincy certification process. More specifically, research methodologies in healthcare chaplaincy are more frequently used to inform the quality of spiritual care provided.

EXPERIMENTAL PLAN:

This will be a cross-sectional, observational, qualitative study. Data will be collected using semi-structured interviews. The sample will consist of healthcare chaplains who have met with certification committees in the past two years, chaplains who have served on certification committees in the past two years, managers of healthcare chaplaincy departments, and chaplains with at least seven years experience with knowledge of chaplaincy certification competencies. We hope to better understand the process according to different viewpoints.

EXPECTED MILESTONES:

- Q1: IRB approval, recruit participants, and begin interviews
- Q2: Continue and finalize interviews, conduct thematic analysis
- Q3: Finalize analysis, begin research report, submit conference propos
- Q4: Finalize and submit research report

BENEFITS TO INDUSTRY:

Improve standards for healthcare chaplaincy education and certification

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES:

- Research report (internal)
- Conference proposal
- Extra: journal article (if agreed by funders)