



Bachelor's Degree in Chaplaincy and Ministerial Care

Program Presentation

The Bachelor's Degree in Chaplaincy and Ministerial Care at the Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) constitutes an integral educational proposal that unites the Christian tradition of pastoral care (*cura animarum*) applied to human contexts such as hospitals, armed forces, educational and penitentiary institutions, where the Church exercises its vocation of accompaniment.

In the biblical and ecclesial tradition, ministerial care is the service of spiritual and emotional accompaniment as an expression of faith and charity. In the Church, this ministry has historically manifested itself through spiritual direction, pastoral counseling, and consoling presence in moments of crisis and need. This vocation of accompaniment is renewed in the contemporary context through chaplaincy, a professional discipline oriented toward spiritual well-being, human dignity, and support within institutional environments.

The Bachelor's Degree in Chaplaincy and Ministerial Care at UNICA offers an interdisciplinary education that combines theology, psychology, counseling, and pastoral ministry, preparing professionals capable of:

- Understanding spiritual and emotional needs from a Christian and compassionate perspective.
- Intervening in situations of crisis, grief, and vulnerability with pastoral sensitivity and methodological rigor.
- Accompanying processes of faith and discernment in diverse contexts (medical, military, educational), uniting emotional support and evangelizing mission.
- Leading programs of spiritual care, reconciliation, and the promotion of integral well-being in local and global contexts.

Thanks to its virtual and blended modality, the program is accessible to students from various contexts, who may carry out ministerial and chaplaincy practices in their places of residence or in affiliated institutions. Likewise, its bilingual offering (Spanish and English) opens doors to serve in multicultural communities and international environments. With this degree, UNICA reaffirms its commitment to the mission of the Church and society: to form professionals who bear witness to faith through care, in the spirit of the Gospel and the Social Doctrine of the Church.



Institutional

Identity

The Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) is an ecclesiastical institution of Christian-Catholic inspiration, committed to integral formation in the light of the Gospel and the living tradition of the Church. It integrates faith and reason, fosters spiritual life, and prepares its students for intellectual, social, and pastoral service in contemporary society.

Mission

To train professionals in chaplaincy and ministerial care with academic, ethical, pastoral, and spiritual competencies, prepared to accompany people in crisis, promote healing, and foster integral human development, in fidelity to the evangelizing mission of the Church.

Vision

To be recognized as a Catholic university of reference in the formation of chaplains and ministerial care agents, with impact on spiritual accompaniment, reconciliation, care for the sick, and the promotion of human dignity in America and around the world.

Values

Truth, Charity, Excellence, Holiness, Unity, and Service.

Program Technical Sheet

Field	Description
Program Name	Bachelor's Degree in Chaplaincy and Ministerial Care
Academic Level	Undergraduate / Bachelor
Duration	8 semesters (curricular structure organized by semesters)
Total Credits	160 credits (average of 20 credits per semester)
Modality	Virtual and blended (synchronous/asynchronous classes, intensive counseling workshops, and ministerial/chaplaincy practices)
Language Offering	Spanish / English / Bilingual (according to student's selection)
Location	State of Texas, USA
Degree Awarded	Bachelor in Chaplaincy and Ministerial Care — Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA)

Admission Requirements (Profile and Documentation)

- Recognized High School Diploma or equivalent (GED).
- Secondary school transcript / academic record.
- Personal essay (letter of motivation and vocational discernment for ministerial service).

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- Admission interview (academic and vocational/ministerial).
- One pastoral or academic recommendation.
- Demonstration of language proficiency according to the modality (see language section).
- For international students: compliance with current immigration and/or visa requirements.
- The university may include additional requirements according to institutional and accreditation regulations.

Curriculum by Semesters (8 Semesters — 160 Credits)

Semester	Code	Course	Credits	Summary	Prerequisites
1	CAP-101	Introduction to Chaplaincy and Ministry	6	Foundations of pastoral service and spiritual care.	None
	CAP-102	Theology of Mission and Service	6	Theological and biblical principles of Christian ministry.	None
	CAP-103	Psychology of Human and Spiritual Development	4	Psychological bases of growth and spiritual crisis.	None
	CAP-104	Interpersonal Communication and Public Speaking	4	Writing, active listening, and ministerial communication.	None
Total			20		
2	CAP-201	Sociology of Religion and Ministerial Contexts	6	Study of religion and culture as contexts of service.	None
	CAP-202	History of Spirituality and Care of Souls	6	Historical evolution of pastoral ministry and spiritual care.	CAP-101
	CAP-203	Psychology of Crisis and Grief	4	Coping processes for trauma, loss, and pain.	CAP-103
	CAP-204	Digital Tools for Pastoral Management	4	Technology applied to ministerial organization and communication.	None
Total			20		
3	CAP-301	Methods of Pastoral Counseling I	6	Principles of intervention in individual and family accompaniment.	CAP-101
	CAP-302	Ministerial Ethics and Bioethics	6	Ethical foundations applied to service, confidentiality, and life.	CAP-102
	CAP-303	Moral Theology and Spiritual Direction	4	The experience of faith and its impact on life decisions.	CAP-103
	CAP-304	Liturgy and Celebration of the Sacraments	4	Principles of liturgical action in various contexts.	None
Total			20		
4	CAP-401	Methods of Pastoral Counseling II (Family and Group)	6	Advanced strategies of intervention and mediation.	CAP-301
	CAP-402	Christian Anthropology and the Sacrament of Orders	6	Theology of the human being and the ordained/lay ministry.	CAP-102
	CAP-403	Care for the Sick and Terminally Ill	4	Emotional and spiritual support tools in hospitals.	CAP-103
	CAP-404	General Elective I	4	Elective course in humanities or social sciences.	Depending on elective
Total			20		

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5	CAP-501	Planning and Management of Ministerial Programs	6	Design, execution, and evaluation of service and mission projects.	CAP-301
	CAP-502	Pastoral Theology and Ecclesiology	6	Pastoral action in various contexts (educational, military, penitentiary).	CAP-304
	CAP-503	Legal Framework of Chaplaincy and Social Assistance	4	Analysis of laws and regulations for ministerial practice.	CAP-201
	CAP-504	Chaplaincy Practice I (Supervised)	4	First field experience in service institutions.	CAP-301
Total			20		
6	CAP-601	Research in Ministerial Studies	6	Research methodologies in the pastoral field.	CAP-204
	CAP-602	Social Doctrine of the Church (and Charity)	6	Deepening of the Church's social teaching applied to ministry.	CAP-102
	CAP-603	Intervention in Pastoral Crisis and Trauma	4	Support strategies in emergency situations.	CAP-403
	CAP-604	Chaplaincy Practice II (Intensive)	4	Intensive experience in specialized chaplaincy environments.	CAP-504
Total			20		
7	CAP-701	Ministry with Families and Faith Communities	6	Intervention in group dynamics and faith development.	CAP-301
	CAP-702	Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue in Service	6	Interreligious relations and joint action in ministerial settings.	CAP-202
	CAP-703	Ministerial Leadership and Administration	4	Leadership skills for ministry and organizational management.	CAP-502
	CAP-704	Advanced Elective in Chaplaincy and Counseling	4	Specialized course in a specific area of ministerial care.	Depending on elective
Total			20		
8	CAP-801	Integrative Seminar and Thesis Project	10	Development and defense of an applied service project or thesis.	CAP-601
	CAP-802	Professional Ethics and Ministerial Responsibility	6	Ethical principles in the professional practice of chaplaincy.	CAP-302
	CAP-803	Pastoral and Missionary Animation	4	Strategies for revitalizing faith and mission in communities.	CAP-502
Total			20		

Methodology and Evaluation

• Blended Methodology:

The program combines synchronous and asynchronous classes, practical counseling workshops, intensive seminars, and field practices in chaplaincy and ministerial institutions.

• Continuous Evaluation:

Assessment is based on case studies, pastoral intervention plans, theological essays, supervised practices, applied research, and the defense of the final thesis or service project.

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- **Bilingual Evaluation:**

In the bilingual modality, students will be assessed on social and linguistic competencies in both languages (Spanish and English), ensuring proficiency for professional ministry in multicultural environments.

Institutional Observations and Regulatory Compliance

The university will adapt admission documents and requirements in accordance with the regulations of the State of Texas and the authorization and accreditation conditions applicable to religious institutions and programs offered in virtual or hybrid modalities.

All academic, ministerial, and practical components comply with the institutional mission and the ethical standards expected of faith-based higher education programs. UNICA reserves the right to make academic adjustments to ensure compliance with accreditation standards, ecclesial directives, and legal frameworks for religious education within the United States.