

Colleague-Observed Competencies of the NAVAC Mental Health Certification Specialty Competency Checklist

(There are 26 Mental Health Chaplain Certification Competencies.
The Mental Health Care Sponsor or Chaplain Sponsor is being asked to evaluate
the below 20 competencies from their day-to-day work with the chaplain applicant.)

Colleague-Observed Competencies	Respond Y or N	
Identifies and observes professional boundaries in providing pastoral care in the context of interdisciplinary team-based mental health care, functioning within the scope of chaplaincy practice, and facilitating engagement with professional mental health services.		
Conducts in-service education to chaplains and other clinical staff on how research literature affirms the benefits of spirituality integration into holistic mental health care, including roles for mental health chaplain specialists in providing care to those with mental health needs. During the in-service education presentations, the chaplain employs evidence-based demonstration of how spirituality addresses meaning, purpose, connectedness, and hope.		
Provides spiritual assessment and care to patients, integrating this into interdisciplinary, team-based approaches as appropriate.		
Formulates chaplaincy care plans, informed by knowledge gained through assessment of the spiritual and existential dimensions of emotional suffering.		
Can identify and communicate about signs and symptoms of diverse mental health related problems prevalent among Veterans and Service members – including but not limited to posttraumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, dementia,		
Writes clear, concise medical record notes regarding the provision of spiritual care.		
Incorporates pertinent contemporary evidence-based approaches complementary to the scope of chaplaincy practice in mental health patient care.		
Demonstrates understanding of various disruptive effects that mental illnesses can have in relationships, employment, and general functioning.		
Supports mental health and other team professionals in working with Veteran patients.		
Promotes bi-directional exchange of referrals with mental health as indicated by patients' needs.		
Works with other disciplines to promote the integration of pastoral and spiritual care within the institution where one serves.		
Serves as a subject-matter expert to interdisciplinary teams on spiritual issues, including how these issues may intersect with mental health concerns.		
Shares observations from chaplain visits and assessments to members of care team.		

Contributes to ethical discussions to advocate for patients' needs related to questions of faith, spiritual health, and well-being.		
Demonstrates ability to use pastoral and relational skills that build trust and a working alliance in individual pastoral care and counseling.		
Fosters resilience, human flourishing, prevention, and palliation of mental health problems.		
Assists patients in identifying and living in accordance with their chosen values, and helps patients recognize sources of meaning, purpose, and hope.		
Facilitates theological reflection with patients' consent in a manner that honors diverse faith traditions and patients' experiences with mental health problems.		
Demonstrates group process skills and understanding of dynamics in conducting spirituality groups among Veterans with mental health problems.		
Exercises sensitivity, openness, and respect in establishing, deepening, and ending patient relationships.		

Signature affirms that I have evaluated the applicant in the 20 Colleague-Observed Competencies of the NAVAC Mental Health Chaplain Certification Competencies.

Mental Health Care Sponsor or Chaplain Sponsor:

Printed Name and Credentials: _____

Signature: _____

Length of Time Sponsor has Observed this Chaplain: _____