



2026 CPSC UPGRADE of Designated Affiliation - General Information and Application Policy



SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- * For 26 years the objective and dream of **SAAP** (*South African Association for Pastoral Work*) was to obtain professional recognition.
- * The main reason for this objective was to have a professional body that would protect both the counsellor and the public.
- * SAAP has now evolved into **CPSC** (*Council for Pastoral and Spiritual Counsellors*).
- * CPSC functions within the *Association of Christian Religious Practitioners (ACRP)*.
- * ACRP has been recognised as a professional body by **SAQA** (*South African Qualifications Authority*) for the professionalisation of Christian Religious Practitioners in South Africa, and as such we at CPSC need to adhere to their requirements and regulations.

TYPES OF AFFILIATION WITH CPSC:

We currently offer **three types** of registration at CPSC: *designated affiliation, associated affiliation, and student affiliation.*

I. Designated affiliation:

- This is the correct type of affiliation for any person with training in, and who is involved with, pastoral counselling.
- If you have a qualification in Theology, but your main daily work is more pastoral counselling related than general ministry related, a *designated affiliation* is also the correct type of affiliation to apply for.
- Should the evaluation committee however find that the application is more general ministry related, your application will be referred to **CGMP** (*Council for General Ministry Practitioners*).

II. Associated affiliation:

- This type of affiliation is for those individuals who are not actively involved in pastoral counselling, but who want to stay affiliated to keep abreast of developments, etc.
- It is also the correct type of affiliation for someone who is already registered with another related statutory council (e.g. HPCSA or SACSSP) or professional body (e.g. ASCHP) and who would like to add the Christian character to their practice.

III. Student affiliation:

- This is the type of affiliation all registered students in Pastoral/Christian counselling at an accredited training institution may apply for. (*Please request the separate information document re Student Affiliation if applicable.*)

Protocol for Designated Affiliation UPGRADE applications:

IMPORTANT:

APPLICANTS MAY ONLY APPLY FOR REGISTRATION WITH ONE OF ACRP'S COUNCILS.

You may not, e.g., be an affiliate of both CPSC and CGMP.

GENERAL:

- ! All the required documents for a Designated Affiliation Upgrade application must please be **scanned as a single pdf-document**.
- ! A **maximum of two pdf-files** will be accepted **only** if it was necessary to scan the new qualification/s separately from the application form.
- ! **Please do not send the application form as separately scanned single pages!**
- ! All the pages must be:
 - scanned in **portrait format**
 - submitted in **numerical order**
 - facing in the **same direction**.
- ! Please note that **cell phone photos cannot be submitted** as they are blurred and illegible once printed and will therefore not be accepted.
- ! Please complete the form in **BLOCK LETTERS** with **black ink**. Either **TYPE** in the spaces or **WRITE** as clearly as possible.
- ! Please fill out the application form in full -- please try to not omit any sections as these forms have been structured as per SAQA requirements with compulsory fields.
- ! The **DECLARATION** and the **POPI ACT AGREEMENT** must be completed and **hand-signed** before submission.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION IN THIS EXACT ORDER:

1. A copy of your **ID document**:
2. All the pages of the **2026 CPSC UPGRADE Designated Affiliation application form** in numerical order.
3. A **letter of supervision**, if applicable.
4. Proof (copies) of all **relevant SAQA registered/SAQA verified qualifications**.

Kindly submit your application exactly according to the protocol supplied above.

Applications that do not comply, will be returned to the applicant.

APPLICATION FORM - BLOCK 1:

1. PERSONAL DETAILS:

- *Page 1: Please remember to fill in your **title**.
- *Page 2: Please remember to provide the **Title of Thesis** (Master's or Doctorate) if applicable.

APPLICATION FORM - BLOCK 3:

- *Page 3: Please mark the **most applicable block** with an X.

Please refer to the "Greyscale CPSC Designations Scope of Practice Table".

BLOCK 4:

4. ACADEMIC RECORD:

* Page 3:

- **Please provide information on relevant training completed and include copies of accredited academic certificates.** According to SAQA regulations we must take successfully completed accredited qualifications into consideration during the evaluation when awarding an accreditation category to an applicant.
- Please note that **it is your responsibility to have any foreign, overseas, online, or unaccredited qualifications evaluated** by the Directory for Foreign Qualifications at **SAQA** (*South African Qualifications Authority*) to be matched with registered South African qualifications on the **NQF** (*National Qualifications Framework*) prior to applying for CPSC evaluation.

Regarding training institutions and qualifications:

- Because we are a SAQA registered Professional Body and we therefore need to adhere to SAQA requirements, it is important to submit SAQA registered South African qualifications, or SAQA evaluated and verified foreign qualifications.
- Any foreign, online, unaccredited, other than mainstream South African universities', or overseas qualifications should be evaluated and verified by SAQA before the application is submitted.
- This is the responsibility of the applicant and must be done if the applicant wants the qualifications to be considered during the individual evaluation.

SAQA has a list of accredited training institutions on their database.

In South Africa, the **DHET** (*Department of Higher Education and Training*) has already accredited certain training institutions, and these have subsequently been placed on SAQA's register of accepted training institutions.

SAQA also has a register of accredited learning programs on their database.

In South Africa, the **CHE** (*Council of Higher Education*) accredits the learning programs and therefore also the qualifications obtained when these programs have been completed.

These are the qualifications accepted by SAQA without any further evaluation needed. All qualifications meeting these standards are then registered on the **NQF** (*National Qualifications Framework*).

For example:

- If an applicant presents an applicable Honours Degree, obtained from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, it will be registered on the NQF as NQF 8, and no further verification will be needed before we can evaluate it as part of your application.
- On the other hand, there are universities and training institutions all over the world that offer degrees and qualifications that adhere to the standards set by their internal quality standards, assessments, and requirements. Many of these are accepted in SA as accredited training institutions and learning programs, but many are not compliant to the standards set by the SAQA.

It is of the utmost importance that any qualification obtained from a university, college, or other institution abroad should be evaluated by SAQA to be matched with South African qualifications registered on the NQF. The Directorate of Foreign Qualifications Evaluation and Advisory Services (DFQEAS) is well equipped to do this:

<https://www.saqa.org.za/services/evaluation-of-foreign-qualifications/>

SAQA will then give feedback to the applicant with 3 possible outcomes:

1. The first is that both the training institution and qualification are recognized, and that the qualification presented can be rewarded as a qualification equal to its equivalent in SA.
2. The second is that they can evaluate the qualification and match it to a similar qualification registered on the NQF and give feedback on how this should be rewarded.
3. The last scenario is that they do not accept either the training institution, or the learning program, as being up to the standards set by SAQA, CHE and DHET.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to do this before application, as we at CPSC do not have the authority to accredit overseas universities and qualifications.

Please try to obtain the verification for your qualification from SAQA. You can also visit their website (www.saqa.org.za) for further information.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is an accredited qualification?

It is a qualification that was awarded by a training and education provider that is registered with the Department of Education, or the H & W SETA, that offers formal qualifications that have been registered with SAQA.

You need to include the verification certificate which you obtained through SAQA if you achieved your qualification through a training and education provider that is not registered with the Department of Education, or the H & W SETA. RPL (*recognition of prior learning*) is available for candidates who hold informal qualifications.

If I only have informal (unaccredited) qualifications and experience, may I still apply?

Yes, you may if you are of the opinion that your qualification/s warrant registration. This is known as *recognition of prior learning* (RPL) and means that your informal and non-formal learning and work experience can be evaluated against the outcomes expected of a counsellor in a certain category. You may be asked to complete some additional prescribed courses.

BLOCK 5:

5. RECORD OF ADDITIONAL SUPERVISION DURING STUDY:

*Page 4:

Definition of supervision:

- **Supervision** consists of a practitioner meeting regularly with another professional to discuss casework and other professional issues in a structured way. This is often known as clinical supervision or consultation.
- Supervision is used in counselling, psychotherapy, and other mental health disciplines, as well as in many other professions engaged in working with people.
- The purpose of supervision is to assist the practitioner to learn from his/her experiences and progress in expertise, as well as to ensure good service to the client or patient and the practitioner's personal safety.
- Please provide the details of supervision received (if applicable) in the table. (You may add extra pages if necessary.)
- Please provide a letter, or letters, (if applicable) from your supervisor/supervisors as proof.

More information regarding supervision and suitable supervisors will be supplied after the registration process had been completed.

BLOCK 6:**6. RECORD OF ADDITIONAL RELEVANT PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE DURING STUDIES:**

* page 4:

Practical experience refers to actual Pastoral and Spiritual Counselling that has been done and accumulated as hours of experience to receive accreditation with CPSC. These practical hours of counselling experience are then what the practitioner would take to a supervisor to discuss as 'casework'.

Please provide the details of your practical experience in the table. (You may add extra pages if necessary.)

BLOCK 7:**7. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

* page 4:

Please provide information about future plans regarding professional development.

BLOCK 8:**8. PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND ORGANISATIONS:**

* page 4:

Please provide information about the statutory councils (e.g. HPCSA or SACSSP), or professional body (e.g. ASCHP), that you are affiliated/registered with, as well as your registration number(s).

BLOCK 9:**9. RE DECLARATION and POPI ACT Authorisation:**

NB Please pay specific attention to the information on pages 5 and 6!

Please place your initials on page 5 and hand-sign on page 6.

RE CPD (Continuing Professional Development) POINTS:

- For all 7 categories of designation within CPSC, it is **compulsory** -- as per SAQA requirements -- to achieve **20 CPSC CPD points** annually.
- 5 of these CPSC CPD points should be for supervision – compulsory for all 7 categories.
- 3 of these CPSC CPD points should be for Ethics, Human Rights or applicable legislation.
- There are several approved CPSC CPD activities that the affiliate may choose from to obtain these CPSC CPD points, e.g.:
 - attending CPSC approved and evaluated courses, seminars, conferences, workshops etc. Information regarding all CPSC CPD events is shared in an events table on the CPSC website: www.cpsc.org.za
 - attending the 2 annual ACRP conferences – both worth 8 CPSC CPD points
 - writing articles for the CPSC Notes -- a 600 words article will earn you 5 CPSC CPD points
 - writing book reviews
 - further accredited studies
 - CPSC CPD presenters who develop, submit and present new material will be rewarded with double points
 - 5 CPSC CPD points are also awarded annually to both mentor and mentee for a minimum of 5 hours of **compulsory** supervision/mentoring.

PLEASE NOTE:

- These CPSC CPD points will remain valid for a two-year period.
- CPSC CPD points can only be credited if the annual subscription has been paid.
- The CPSC CPD Evaluation Committee evaluates courses, workshops, etc., for pastoral counselling content specifically and awards CPSC CPD points accordingly. Only courses that have been evaluated by the committee will have CPSC CPD points awarded to them based specifically on pastoral counselling content and only these courses will then provide the discipline specific CPSC CPD points applicable to CPSC affiliates as required by SAQA.
- CPD points awarded to any course, workshop, etc. by another professional body or council or organisation cannot automatically be used for CPSC CPD points! The affiliate can write an article for the quarterly CPSC newsletter with the consent of the presenter about such a non-evaluated course, including a summary of some of the content of the course but then specifically highlighting both the personal value and professional applicability of the course to the pastoral counselling practice. For a lengthy course, a series of articles can be written.

More information regarding CPSC CPD points will be supplied after the registration process had been completed.

CONSENT FORM:

* page 7:

- Please complete and **hand-sign** the consent form to provide permission for your contact details to be placed on the CPSC Website.
- This form will be sent to the ACRP webmaster for placement on the CPSC webpage if you were awarded a CPSC Subcategory 5, 6 or 7.

Please email the completed application form and the required supporting documents to Ilse at ilse.grunewald@acrp.org.za



ACRP has been recognized as Professional Body by SAQA
SAQA Registration number PB0000110

PROCESS AFTER SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION:

When your correctly presented application for a *designated affiliation* had been received, it will be prepared, printed, and presented to the CPSC Evaluation and Registration Committee.

- An evaluation process forms part of the application for a designated affiliation.
- A designation category is awarded by the CPSC Evaluation and Registration Committee based on:
 - * accredited qualifications on the SAQA register
 - * practical experience
 - * information supplied in the testimonials.
- A *scope of practice* is linked to the awarded designation and subcategory (please see the *Greyscale Scope of Practice* document).

It is very important to operate within the guidelines set by the *CPSC Designation scope tables*, as a specific scope of practice is linked to a specific designation. Each designation has its own detailed guidelines, borders, and limitations.

- After the evaluation process you will be informed of the approved ACRP designation (please refer to the *Greyscale CPSC Designations Scope of Practice Table* document).
- An invoice for the balance of the applicable fee will then be sent to you, calculated according to the sub-category awarded, the application date, and the fee structure gliding scale.
- Applications received in the fourth quarter of 2026 are considered as 2027 applications and the registration will then be valid until 31 December 2027.
- As soon as this registration payment had been received, the registration process will be completed, and your Designated Affiliation certificate and registration number will be issued and emailed to you.
- If an application had not been finalised by payment of the designated affiliation fee within 2 months after the evaluation feedback had been given, it will unfortunately be cancelled. If the applicant then wishes to still be registered, a new application fee will apply.
- Renewal notices regarding CPSC subscriptions are distributed annually in October.
- An accredited Master's Degree or Doctorate is needed to open a counselling practice. We at CPSC do not issue a license to practice, nor a practice number.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Any questions regarding the CPSC registration process and progress should be directed to the CPSC Administrative Office: ilse.grunewald@acrp.org.za
- The whole application, preparation, evaluation, and registration process can take between 4 to 6 weeks as applications form part of a sequence and will be handled in the order they were received. The CPSC Evaluation & Registration Committee can only convene every so often.
- ***Please determine whether your application had been received by the CPSC Administrative Officer if you did not receive a response from the Administrative Office within 7 days of submitting your application form and supporting documents.***
- After registration you will receive a CPSC CPD document with all the information regarding the different options for achieving the required amount of CPSC CPD points.
- Supervision is compulsory for all CPSC Designated Affiliates. A comprehensive document with all the information will be sent to you after registration.
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and assessment will be considered individually if needed.
- Formal RPL might incur further costs if external evaluation routes are involved.
- It is a SAQA requirement that personal details are kept updated to remain in good standing.
- ***Kindly submit your application exactly according to the protocol supplied on page 2 of this document. Applications that do not comply, will be returned to the applicant.***
- Please email the completed application form with the required supporting documents to Ilse at ilse.grunewald@acrp.org.za

FEES 2026/27

	Categories 1 & 2	Categories 3 & 4	Categories 5, 6 & 7
Total annual subscription for applications received January-April 2026 (1 st 4-month term).	R420	R610	R910
Total annual subscription for applications received May-August 2026 (2 nd 4-month term).	R315	R460	R685
Total annual subscription for applications received September-December 2026 (3 rd 4-month term). <i>This is treated as a 2027 application, and the 2027 annual fee will apply as this will already be a registration valid from the registration date in 2026 until 31 December 2027.</i>	Fees will be added after the ACRP Financial Committee meeting.		

CPSC BANKING DETAILS:

Account Name: CPSC (The Council for Pastoral and Spiritual Counsellors)
Bank: Nedbank
Branch: Woodlands
Code: 136-305
Account number: 1020501553

Please use your **surname and initials as reference in the correct field to beneficiary whenever a deposit is made into this account.*

INFORMATION ABOUT REGISTRATION FEES:

- * An EFT is the most desirable method of payment. Please use this route if possible.
- * For the correct allocation, please use your name and surname as reference to beneficiary.
- * Designated affiliation is valid until 31 December of the application year.
- * The new subscription fee is calculated by applying a gliding scale according to the date of the application and the ACRP designation/CPSC subcategory awarded to you during the evaluation process.
- * You will be invoiced for the relevant amount after the evaluation process.
- * The subscription fee needs to be paid to complete the registration process.
- * There is two-month cut-off date to make the necessary payment to complete the registration process, or to provide further information if requested after the final feedback was given.
- * If no payment or requested additional information was received after 2 months, the application may be cancelled by CPSC, and a new application fee will apply to reactivate the process.
- * The ACRP Affiliation fee due to the central office is included in the annual subscription and will be paid by CPSC to the central ACRP account.
- * Applications received from September – December of any year will be treated as an application for the following year, and this affiliation will then only expire on 31 December of that coming year.
- * The annual renewal date for CPSC Affiliation is 31 December.
- * Payment of the full annual CPSC subscription for the following year (which includes the annual ACRP affiliation fee) before 31 March is necessary to remain in good standing, which is a SAQA requirement.
- * The certificate issued will be renewed simultaneously with the annual renewal of affiliation with validity until 31 December.
- * Designated affiliates are liable for annual subscription of the full year in which resigned.
- * According to SAQA legislation and the ACRP Financial Policy the annual fees may not be in arrears for more than six months and therefore affiliates must be suspended if fees are still outstanding by 30 June.