



Session 9

Hindu Chaplaincy

Serving the four in five

Hindu Mandir Empowerment Council
October 2 - 4, 2026 | Buena Park, California

Gaurav Rastogi
Dean, Hindu Spiritual Care Institute

Speaker Bio



Gaurav Rastogi

Dean and co-founder of the Hindu Spiritual Care Institute, and a Trustee of the Graduate Theological Union.

He teaches Dhyana meditation (ERYT-500), has taught at IIM Ahmedabad and Ashoka University, and has written three business books.

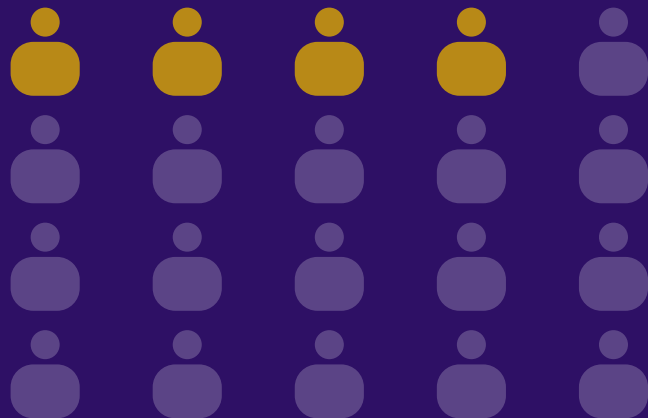
Presentation Abstract



One in five Hindus in America is at a temple in any given week. **Hindu spiritual care and chaplaincy** is an outbound service for temples to reach the other four: at the hospital bedside, in hospice, on campus, in prison, and at home.

This session shows what an outbound spiritual care service looks like, what it takes to staff one, and how a temple starts its own with people trained through HSCI.

One in five is at the temple



4 of every 20, in any given week

19%

of Hindu Americans attend a house of worship weekly

35%

attend religious services at least monthly

The community is already outside the temple.

Pew Research Center: Asian Americans, A Mosaic of Faiths (2012); Religious Landscape Study (2023-24)

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What Hindu chaplaincy looks like



Hospital and ICU



Hospice and home



College campus

Also: jail and prison · grief and caregiving at home · phone and video anywhere

HSCI does this today: 16 counselors in 10 languages, serving The Claremont Colleges since 2025.

Why chaplaincy, and why now



1

The first generation is aging.

Hospitals, hospices and the VA ask for a Hindu chaplain. Most cannot find one.

2

The next generation is not at the temple.

They meet the tradition in a hospital room, a dorm room, or nowhere at all.

3

Institutions accept credentialed chaplains only.

HSCI is a BCCI-recognized endorser, so its chaplains can be placed and paid.

A temple that trains no one for this work will not be present at the hardest moments of its own community.

The pathway already exists



STEP 1

CSC Certificate

9 months, online

STEP 2

Hindu CPE

400 clinical hours, with CPEI

STEP 3

MA in Chaplaincy

GTU Berkeley, 12 credits
advanced standing

STEP 4

Board certification

APC / BCCI, with HSCI
endorsement



And a course built for your purohit

Hindu Purohit Counselor (HPC): chaplaincy skills and credentials for practicing purohits. Cohort 1 runs October 2026 to July 2027, 10-12 seats.

264 graduates · 8 cohorts · 9 countries · teaching since 2018

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What we ask of every temple



1

Send two people to the CSC course.

Online and self-paced, 9 months. Your temple gets two trained spiritual care counselors.

2

Send your purohit to the HPC course.

Ritual expertise plus counseling skill. Cohort 1 opens October 2026.

3

Open a local outbound service with us.

We help you set up hospital, hospice, campus or prison visits from your temple.

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