

AGING AND PALLIATIVE CARE CERTIFICATE FOR INTERFAITH CLERGY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible to participate in the Aging and Palliative Care Certificate for Interfaith Clergy?

This program is designed for clergy of all faith traditions, chaplains, religious educators, spiritual and lay leaders, and clergy-in-training/seminary students. A small number of individuals with other professional backgrounds have been accepted on a case-by-case basis.

How will this program advance my career?

Clergy are frequently called upon to assist congregants with issues around aging, serious illness, health issues affecting older adults, end-of-life care, and bereavement. Often, clergy lack the knowledge and skill base to effectively and comfortably discuss, guide, and advise congregants when these issues arise, especially in times of crisis. For example:

- Considering options that facilitate independent community living for as long as possible
- Assisting families to manage transitions of care, including difficult discussions about the option of long-term care
- Guiding discussions about advance care planning for serious illness and end-of-life care

Clergy will gain knowledge and skills to better assist older adults and their family members address these challenging concerns.

These skills are also transferable for clergy who seek career opportunities and growth in agencies that hire clergy as chaplains or spiritual advisors, including long-term care facilities, hospitals, hospices, community organizations, and others.

Can I participate in this program while I work full-time?

This flexible program is designed for working clergy and professionals. The courses are on-line and asynchronous, allowing participants to work on courses wherever they are (in the U.S. or internationally) and at whatever times work best for them. All lessons, discussions, and assignments can be flexibly scheduled around professional, family, and personal activities. In addition, our faculty schedule a limited number of sessions on Zoom to encourage live dialogue among faculty and students.

What is the roadmap for completing the Certificate Program?

This program can be completed within a year. Two courses will be offered for each 8-week "semester," with a short break between terms. We obtain guidance from an Advisory Council

to assure that courses are not scheduled around the busiest times for clergy. While it is most ideal for participants to progress at the recommended pace, participants may decide to move along at a slower pace, taking less than 2 classes during each semester and completing the certificate over two years.

What is the curriculum?

Participants will take 6 courses of 3-credits each, for a total of 18 graduate-level credits. The courses include:

- Basic Counseling with Individuals, Families and Groups
- Philosophical Foundations of the Helping Professions
- Social Gerontology
- Palliative Care: Social Work Practice with Serious Illness
- Coping with Loss
- Interfaith Perspectives on Aging

(Descriptions for each of these courses are at the end of this fact sheet.)

In addition, we schedule an annual conference on Spirituality Near the End of Life, to allow for workshops, networking, and personal meetings. This program is offered at nominal charge to participants in this program and is also open to all social workers and clergy.

Do I receive a recognized credential for completing this program?

Yes. The Aging and Palliative Care Certificate for Interfaith Clergy is accredited by the New York State Department of Education as a free-standing professional certificate for clergy. c2(10)1m02 Tw y86 0 2

Can I receive credit for similar courses taken in other graduate/professional programs or Clinical Pastoral Education?

Students may be waived from taking one course in this program if they have taken a similar, graduate-level class at another accredited program. Students are asked to provide the syllabus for the class to be considered for waiver. Faculty will review the syllabus with the student and make a determination if the course is sufficiently similar to our course. This will be applied on a case by case basis.

Are these courses transferrable to other university/professional programs?

Each university program maintains its own standards for accepting credits earned outside their program. These credits may be applied at the Wurzweiler School of Social Work's MSW program. Students who wis6n tpgrt4 (u)6 (r)-7sd(e)-4 (c)-(St)-5 (uic)-4 (ho)1 (ho)1 (how(e)-4 (c)-(St)-5 (u(d).4

Course Descriptions

Basic Counseling with Individuals, Families and Groups

technology, and legislation. We will also explore new rituals that speak to life stages, as well as our own perceptions of what it means to minister to and experience aging in the 21st century.