

AGING AND PALLIATIVE CARE CERTIFICATE FOR INTERFAITH CLERGY

Overview

The Aging and Palliative Care Certificate for Interfaith Clergy addresses a growing need for well-trained clergy who can support and deliver compassionate guidance and sensitive care for those facing the many complexities of aging while maintaining a quality of life. The 18-credit Interfaith Clergy Certificate can be earned independently or as a part of the 60-credit MSW degree. With two (2) asynchronous online courses each semester (over three 8-week terms), the certificate provides flexible solutions so clergy can continue to meet their multiple obligations. Some students choose to complete Wurzweiler's top-ranked MSW program, enabling them to become eligible for New York State licensure.

We use a holistic social work lens to address the psychosocial, spiritual, and developmental perspectives of individuals, families, and communities facing concerns related to the aging process, serious illness, difficult conversations about advanced care planning, and end-of-life decisions.

Program

Clergy who enroll in this program will develop skills and knowledge that will enable them to address the complex needs of their congregants and communities, or to be at a competitive advantage in the pursuit of a position working with the aging population in aging, hospice, and palliative care.

Roadmap

This 6 Course, 18 Credit program includes:

Fall:

SWK 6686 Social Gerontology, 3 credits

SWK 5132 Philosophical Foundations for the Helping Professions, 3 credits

Spring I:

SWK 6825 Palliative Care: SW Practice with Serious Illness, 3 credits

SWK 5005 Basic Counseling with Individuals, Families and Groups, 3 credits

Spring II:

SWK 6702 Coping with Loss, 3 credits

SWK 5645 Interfaith Perspectives on Aging, 3 credits

Total Certificate Credits: 18

(Please note that SWK course numbers may be revised in future academic years.)

Course Waivers for Prior Courses

Students who can demonstrate completion of an equivalent graduate level course may be waived from completing one (1) comparable course in the program. Students requesting a course waiver

will be required to document the content of the coursework previously taken. The Program Director and faculty will review course materials for equivalence with certificate coursework.

Transfer to MSW Program

Clergy Certificate students interested in becoming a licensed mental health professional may transfer to Wurzweiler's MSW program. Transfer students will apply separately to the MSW degree. Fifteen (15) credits are transferable to the MSW degree as electives. The Basic Counseling course (SWK 5005) is not transferable to the MSW degree; instead, transferring students will register for Generalist Social Work Practice I (SWK 6003) in the MSW program.

Certificates Issued

Each student's course completion records and grades are reviewed following the fall and spring II terms. Those students who have completed the 18-credit roadmap will be awarded certificates.

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