


An Overview of a Geriatric Spiritual Care Educational Program



**AVILA INSTITUTE
of GERONTOLOGY, Inc.**
Education for Compassionate Care

An Overview of a Geriatric Spiritual Care Educational Program

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May 30, 2019
The National Association of Catholic Chaplains
(NACC) Pre-Conference

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Geriatric Spiritual Care Education

- Dynamics of Spiritual Care
- Theology of Suffering
- Active Listening
- Moral Ethics
- Palliative Care
- Community Networking
- Clinical Experience

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Designing the Courses

- Director oversees content
- Align with NACC Competencies
- Faculty provide material
- 65 hours classroom time which includes reflection over 4 weekends and 55 hours of hands-on experience in a long-term care facility
- 8-10 students per class

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Completion of Certificate Program

- Attending every class
- Attending and participating during clinical hours
- Complete required papers
- Meeting with mentor
- Completing all assignments given by faculty
- Complete all quizzes after each session

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Dynamics of Spiritual Care – Module 1

- Life Review and Assessment
- Spirituality
- Prayer, Ritual and Sacrament



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Components of Module 1

Life Review

- Understanding your spiritual journey brings a deeper understanding to another's journey

Spirituality

- Unique life experiences

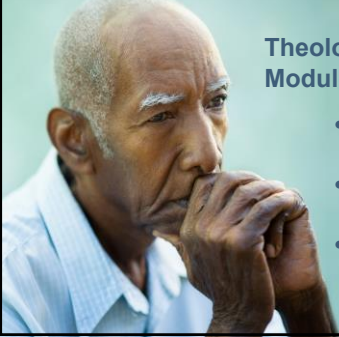
Prayer, Ritual and Sacrament

- Ministering the memory impaired

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**Theology of Suffering –
Module 2**

- Theological Reflection/
Care Partnering
- Dynamics of Grief, Loss
and Separation
- Ministry to the Dying

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Components of Module 2

Theological/Reflection / Care Partnering

- Old and new testament verses on suffering
- The spiritual value of the Paschal Mystery

Dynamics of Grief, Loss and Separation

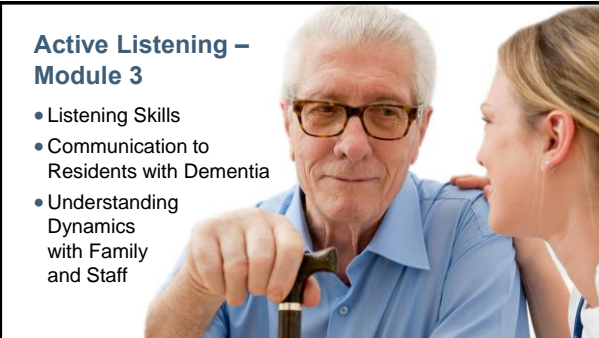
- Discuss your own losses and grief

Ministry to the Dying

- Coming to terms with the reality of death

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**Active Listening –
Module 3**

- Listening Skills
- Communication to
Residents with Dementia
- Understanding
Dynamics
with Family
and Staff

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Components of Module 3

Listening Skills

- Active listening with elders
- Silence

Communication to Residents with Memory Impairment

- Overview of dementia and stages

Communication with Families

- Active listening with families

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Moral Ethics – Module 4

- Practical Ethics/Moral Theology
- Comparative Religions
- Review of Case Studies/Practical Ministerial Details

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Components of Module 4

Practical Ethics/Moral Theology

- Decision making process

Cultural and Religious Diversity

- Overview of the Major Religions and their influence

Case Studies

- Ethical dilemmas are discussed

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Palliative Care – Module 5

- Palliative Care
- Recognizing Signs when Death is Near
- Difficult Conversations during the Dying Process

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Components of Module 5

Palliative Care

- Palliative vs Hospice

Culture of Palliative Care

- Recognizing Signs when Death is Near
- Recognize symptoms and understand basic medical terminology

Difficult Conversations during the Dying Process

- Person-centered Messaging

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Community Networking – Components

- Parish Ministry to the Elderly
- Developing a Spiritual Care Network
- Developing a Pastoral Care Department
- Recruiting Volunteers

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Clinical Experience

Each student must attend 55 hours of clinical time at the assigned long-term care facility served by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. The site coordinator will develop the schedule for each student.



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Clinical Experience

- Participants will have the opportunity to interact and apply learned skills with residents with memory impairment and those receiving palliative or end-of-life care.
- Participants will interact with staff from all departments.
- Participants have an opportunity to participate in group discussion to reflect on experiences from the day.

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Spiritual Care Specific to Geriatrics

- Elders living in long-term care and other settings
- Variety of needs
- Ministering to elders, their families and the staff

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The challenge of providing high quality care is ours. We are the standard-bearers against those who would exploit the infirmity of old age for their own profit.

- Venerable Mary Angeline

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