

Palliative Care Program Information

1. What is palliative care?

Palliative care aims to relieve the suffering and improve the quality of living and dying for those with terminal illness. It is as much a philosophy as it is a model of care. This program will assist you to help patients and families address physical, psychological, social, spiritual and practical issues related to dying and death. The curriculum is based on the norms and guidelines of palliative care developed by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association.

2. I want to get a job in palliative care. What kind of job can I get in palliative care after taking this program?

This program is a post basic program which means it is for persons who have already graduated from a program such as nursing. This is not a vocational program which means the body of study does not prepare you for a specific job when you are done, such as personal support worker.

This program is designed to build on the knowledge in health care that you already have so that you are better prepared to work with palliative patients, their families and other members of the health care team.

3. The catalogue says I must be a regulated health care professional in order to take this program. What is a regulated health care professional?

There is a law in Ontario called the Regulated Health Care Professions Act (RHPA). This Act outlines the scope of practice, or the common rules and regulations for members of the 21 regulated health professions: Audiologists, Chiropodists, Chiropractors, Dental Hygienists, Dentists, Denturists, Dietitians, Massage Therapists, Medical Laboratory Technologists, Medical Radiation Technologists, Midwives, Registered Nurses and Registered Practical Nurses, Occupational Therapists, Opticians, Optometrists, Pharmacists, Physicians, Physiotherapists, Podiatrists, Psychologists, Respiratory Therapists, and Speech-Language Pathologists.

You can learn more by visiting <http://www.regulatedhealthprofessions.on.ca/> or go to <http://www.health.gov.on.ca>

Personal support workers are considered unregulated care providers and are best to consider the PSW Special Interest courses offered through Continuing Education Health Sciences.

Volunteers can access learning opportunities through VON Hamilton or at the Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice.

4. What is the program of study?

The program consists of six theory courses and a 30 hr field placement. Each theory course is 30 hours in length.

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| HSCI HZA69 | Introduction to Palliative Care |
| COMM 10084 | Communication and Informed Decision Making |
| HSCI 10082 | Pain Management |
| HSCI 10083 | Symptom Management |
| HMNS 10016 | Loss, Grief and End of Life Issues |
| HMNS 10017 | Professional Issues and Advocacy |
| CLIN 10033 | Field Practicum |

5. Will this program of study help me prepare for the Canadian Nurses Association certification exam in Hospice Palliative Care?

Yes it will. The curriculum is based on the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) norms and guidelines for palliative care. More specifically the Standards of Practice for Hospice Palliative Care Nurses as well as the competencies outlined in the study guide for this exam have been used as the framework for curriculum development.

For more information please contact the Program Secretary at (905) 540-4247 Ext. 26258.