



Certificate Program – Grief, Loss and Bereavement

The focus of this certificate program is to educate and train professionals and paraprofessionals to work with those who are grieving. This certificate will focus on the grief process that accompanies a death, although the physical manifestations, psychological reactions and emotional responses encountered are often the same for any loss experience.

This foundation of knowledge begins with an understanding of appropriate and normal grief reactions, applicable interventions with the bereaved, the need for social supports, developmental changes, and communication skills, as well as learning when to refer those who need more professional interventions and the community resources available to them. The program will enable participants to gain knowledge, skills, and confidence to support bereaved individuals and groups in diverse settings and situations. The tools provided by this certificate program will enable those who support the bereaved to work most effectively to provide the appropriate services and referrals.

The goal of this program is preparation to facilitate and support the bereavement process for those who have suffered a loss. In addition, it is to supplement the education of professionals with knowledge in the specific field of grief, loss and bereavement.

Program Participants

This certificate program is designed for various care providers working with the bereaved. Those who can benefit from the courses or the certificate include: pastoral care and health care workers, hospice volunteers, volunteers who work with the sick and dying, social service program personnel, as well as those who need to increase their knowledge of grief and the corresponding changes that occur after a loss. Those who may also benefit from this program include funeral directors and family therapists, professional counselors, Red Cross workers, and those who work in arenas where loss is a major theme, such as child abuse, the foster care system, domestic violence, crime victims, and divorce.

Conditions for Admission to the Program

No prior experience is needed to enter the program. The program is aimed at those who are helping the bereaved and is presented in an academic environment. Those currently grieving the loss of a loved one may find the curriculum of little help in processing their own grief and in fact may be overwhelmed by the subject matter. This program is not intended as support for those healing from their own recent loss.

Instructor Qualifications

Instructors will have a minimum of a Master's Degree and professional experience in a field related to the course they are teaching. This education requirement may be waived, at the discretion of the program director, when an instructor has had demonstrated professional experience comparable to education and/or is a leader in a particular subject area.

Courses

The program is designed with flexibility so that a variety of course electives can be offered each quarter. Core and elective courses will be offered throughout the year. Most courses will earn three units, although half and whole day courses may be offered earning four to eight units.

Current courses are shown below. Course topics under current consideration include: Working with different populations who are grieving (Hispanic, developmentally disabled, children), grief and healing arts.

Current Course Offerings (courses added each quarter)

<i>Core Courses</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>
Legal and Ethical Challenges in Bereavement Work	3	August 9, 2007	6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Legacies: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow	3	August 15, 2007	6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Understanding and Responding to the Needs of the Bereaved	3	September 20, 2007	6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
The Implications and Interventions When Grief is Complicated	3	October 24, 2007	6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
<i>Elective Courses</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>
Last Hours of Living	3	July 26, 2007	6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Dimensions of Grief: Perspectives From the Disenfranchised	3	September 27, 2007	6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Part II: Using Art to Facilitate Mourning	3	October 11, 2007	6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Continuing Education Units

Each course is provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number CEP3776 and each course meets the qualifications for hours of continuing education credit for MFTs and/or LCSWs as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences, provider number PCE429. MCEP's for psychologists are currently not available. Each course may be taken without any obligation to take further courses, or without obligation to complete the certificate program criteria. Any course taken will count toward the certificate program. There is no additional fee for CEU's. CEU's certificates and attendance certificates will be provided at the end of each course. Courses are priced as follows:

3-unit course/3 CEUs - \$50

4-unit courses/4 CEUs - \$65

Certificate Award Requirements

Certificates are awarded through the Center for Grief Care and Education at San Diego Hospice & Palliative Care. A certificate will be awarded at the completion of the following:

Certificate Level I

Completion of 12 units of core courses and 12 units of elective courses.

Core courses may satisfy elective criteria once twelve core units are completed.

Certificate Level II

Completion of 12 additional units. Units may be satisfied by any core or elective courses.