

KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OF
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

PROPOSAL

24-Credit End-of-Life/Palliative Nursing Care Certificate Program

Sponsored by the Department of Nursing

A. Name of Institution: Kingsborough Community College

Specify campus where program will be offered, if other than the main campus.

B. CEO or designee: President Regina S. Peruggi

THE SIGNATURE OF THE INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE INDICATES THE INSTITUTION'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED PROGRAM.

C. Contact person, if different: Delores Shrimpton/Joanne Lavin

Telephone: 718-368-5522

D. Proposed program title: End-of-Life Care/Palliative Nursing Care Certificate

E. Proposed degree or other award: Certificate

F. Proposed HEGIS Code: N/A **Total Credits:** 24

G. If the program would be offered jointly with another institution, name the institution/branch below: N/A

IF THE OTHER INSTITUTION IS DEGREE GRANTING, ATTACH A CONTRACT OR LETTER OF AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THAT MEMORANDUM TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFERS NO. 94-04. CONTACT THIS OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A COPY.

H. If the program would lead to a teacher certification other than a classroom Teacher: N/A

I. Indicate the accrediting group: N/A

J. Indicate the expected date of accreditation: N/A

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I. PURPOSE AND GOALS

The End-of-Life/Palliative Care Nursing Certificate is designed to meet the educational needs of registered nurses who are currently employed (or who are interested in gaining employment) in hospice/terminal care units. With today's advances in health care, and with the extension of life expectancy, many clients are living with terminal illnesses for extended periods of time. Providing skilled, compassionate nursing care is essential for the health-care professional and this program is designed to provide specific nursing care principles required to successfully accomplish this goal.

In Brooklyn there are numerous venues that provide end-of-life/palliative care nursing. These include three formal hospice facilities, long term care facilities that have units dedicated to such care, and home care agencies that provide individual assistance to patients. They are always in need of dedicated, competently trained nurses to assist the terminally ill/aged patient but have found that otherwise competent employees do not have the appropriate education to function in this environment.

While there are Master's level certificate programs available, they generally require a baccalaureate degree for entrance. However, there are many graduates of Diploma and Associate Degree nursing programs who are currently working in the Brooklyn health-care environment; some in end-of-life/palliative settings and others in the general medical arena. They are not able to avail themselves of the existing traditional post-baccalaureate certificate programs

It is the intent of this program to provide the nurse who does not have a baccalaureate degree and is thus unable to enter a Master's level certificate program, with the skills necessary to successfully function as an end-of-life/palliative care nurse.

The specific goals for the 24-credit certificate program include the ability to:

1. Identify the special physical and psychological needs of the terminally ill client
2. Determine and collaborate with the health care team to effectively manage the needs of the terminally ill client;
3. Communicate and collaborate with terminally ill clients and significant others; and
4. Individualize nursing care plans for the terminally ill child, adult, and elderly client.

This will be accomplished through the successful completion of the following courses that address that specific required skills: "Biology of Aging"; "Introduction to Gerontology"; "Contemporary Issues in Health Care"; "Perspectives of Death and Dying; End of Life Issues"; "Hospice and Palliative Care; Pain Management in Chronic Illness"; "Alternative Health Care Modalities"; and "Ethics and Morality in the Health Professions".

II. NEED AND JUSTIFICATION

As America's population continues to age, the demand for health care professionals skilled in determining and meeting the needs of patients who are at the end of their lives increases. This demand has led to the proliferation of hospice care units and specialized care centers that are opening in Brooklyn. They have created a thriving market for nurses who have the special ability and training to work with this vulnerable population. The End-of-Life/Palliative Nursing Care Certificate Program explores the ethical and moral dilemmas related to end of life; access and payment to provide for the health care needs of the terminally ill; and the skills needed for this vulnerable population.

This certificate program is intended for individuals working in health care settings with patients who are experiencing end of life issues. Throughout the New York metropolitan area there are numerous registered nurse graduates from diploma and associate degree nursing programs who are general practitioners but who would like to specialize in working with the chronically ill and/or dying. In addition, there are many nurses who are already employed in hospice and terminal care units but do not have the required specialized training. While they already have their required degrees, they need the additional required education to perform successfully in their positions.

III. CURRICULUM

The 24-credit End-of-Life/ Palliative Nursing Care Certificate is offered by the Kingsborough Community College Department of Nursing and consists of an eight course program, six that are currently offered within the college and two that are being written specifically for this certificate.

The courses are:

COURSE	NAME	CREDITS
BIO 03900	Biology of Aging	3
MH 03500	Introduction to Gerontology	3
NUR 02800	Contemporary Issues in Health Care	3
NUR 04300	Perspectives of Death and Dying	3
<i>NUR 05000</i>	<i>*Pain Management in Chronic Illness</i>	3
<i>NUR 05100</i>	<i>*End of Life Issues, Hospice and Palliative Care</i>	3

COURSE	NAME	CREDITS
NUR 02900	Alternative Health Care Modalities	3
PHI 07600	Ethics and Morality in the Health Professions	3
Total Credits		24

**Proposed courses are italicized.*

The course descriptions are as follows:

BIO 03900 – Biology of Aging (3 crs. 3 hrs.)

This course covers the biological aspects of the aging process, including: definitions, characteristics and biological theories of aging, recent biological research, effects of disease and prescription drugs, factors which modify the aging process including nutrition and exercise. There will be a determination of each student's aging profile.

MH 03500 – Introduction to Gerontology (3 crs. 4 hrs.)

Issues and problems pertaining to aging and the aged, the aging process and the roles of older adults in society will be discussed. Emphasis is on learning methods for the prevention and treatment of mental illness in older people.

NUR 02800 – Contemporary Issues in Health Care (3 crs. 3 hrs.)

The sociological, ethical, legal and economic impact of managing health care into the next century is covered within the course.

NUR 04300 – Perspectives on Health and Dying (3 crs. 3 hrs.)

The dynamics of death and dying for the purpose of understanding one's own feelings and attitudes so that meaningful assistance may be given to the dying individual and the family are examined. The ethical/moral and legal problems arising from such controversial issues as advanced medical treatment; strategies, abortion, suicide and euthanasia are explored.

NUR 05000 – Pain Management in Chronic Illness (3 crs. 3 hrs.)

This course specifically focuses on assessing and managing pain associated with chronic illness. Traditional pharmacological approaches as well as non-pharmacological approaches will be explored.

NUR 05100 – End of Life Issues, Hospice and Palliative Care (3crs. Hrs.)

This course will explore the role of the nurse, physician, health care professionals, and caretakers in the provision of caring for the dying patient, and the family members. Students will gain knowledge of end of life issues and care; understand hospice and palliative care philosophy; and have an opportunity to identify professional

interventions when working with the terminally ill patient and the grieving family members. In addition, the course will explore the nursing and health care practices of different cultures, how they view, ritualize and experience dying, and their implications for nursing and health care practices.

NUR 02900 – Alternative Health Care Modalities (3 crs. 3 hrs.)

This course is an introduction to commonly used alternative health care modalities including: yoga; meditation; touch therapies; aromatherapy; herbs; naturopathic healing; humor; music; acupuncture; and biofeedback. Students will practice and experience these techniques in the classroom and will discuss benefits, adverse effects and contraindications.

PHI 07600 – Ethics and Morality in the Health Professions (3 crs. 3 hrs.)

This course covers the range of moral dilemmas associated with health care and biological research and includes an in-depth study of the major ethical theories that determine the content of our moral concepts.

IV. STUDENTS

A. Potential Students:

Throughout the New York metropolitan area there are numerous registered nurse graduates from diploma and associate degree nursing programs who are general practitioners but who would like to specialize in working with the chronically ill and/or dying. Many are already employed in hospice and terminal care units. They already have their required degrees but need additional education to acquire the skills and credentials to work in this specialty. Additionally more hospice care units are opening in Brooklyn due to the increasing numbers of clients who are living with terminal illnesses. These include the Calvary at Lutheran unit; Brooklyn Hospice at Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric; and the hospice unit at Menorah Nursing Home. Brooklyn Visiting Nurse Association also provides hospice home care services and many certificate Home Health Agencies provide care in the home for terminally ill client. Thus, they are a source for potential students: those who currently work in their establishments but do not have the appropriate skills, and those who would like to enter this specialty.

B. Recruitment Sources:

1. There are numerous health-related organizations such as hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers that employ nurses who desire additional training for palliative care specialization. The nursing department has a list of these places and will devise a brochure that will be sent to each establishment.

2. In addition, the Kingsborough community College Admissions Information Center will disseminate information to the greater New York City community.

V. ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

To be accepted into the End-of-Life/Palliative Nursing Care Certificate Program, the prospective student must be a graduate of a registered nursing education program and licensed as a registered nurse. In addition, all students must take the CUNY Assessment Tests.

VI. COST

There will be no additional cost to the college for the implementation of the End-of-Life/Palliative Nursing Care Certificate Program. All courses will be taught by currently employed faculty, college labs will be used, and the chair of the Department of Nursing will supervise the Program. Should the program require additional sections, the class enrollment should meet the instructional cost.

VII. FACULTY

Until the demands of the program exceed the current faculty capability, there is a sufficient number of nursing faculty to meet the instructional needs of the nursing courses while all other courses will be taught by department-related faculty.

VIII. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The End-of-Life/Palliative Nursing Care Certificate Program will use the existing facilities and equipment utilized in the academic program.

IX. EVALUATION AND OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

It will be the responsibility of the supervisor of the End-of-Life/Palliative Nursing Care Certificate Program to evaluate the efficacy of the program, especially during its initial implementation. Students and faculty will be contacted to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the program. Feedback may then be incorporated into program modifications that may result from ongoing and assessment and evaluation efforts.

In addition, student learning will be assessed. This will be accomplished through:

1. Student self-assessments/logs
2. Faculty assessments – written exams and course research papers

3. Industry evaluations during the internship component
4. Successful completion of assignments and projects
5. Successful passing of all clinical and written tests.