



## School of Thanatology

### Doctor of Theology Degree in Thanatology (DTH-TH)

69 Credits

The School of Thanatology provides the skill set and knowledge to prepare professionals with the understanding and skills to support individuals and families as they contend with issues related to death, dying, loss, and bereavement.

The Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC) has created a body of knowledge matrix outlining the competencies professionals should master in order to meet the needs of those with whom they work in death education and grief counseling. We have developed our program to align with the six categories and ten indicators listed on this matrix to prepare students to sit for the standardized certification exam which measures foundational knowledge in the field of Thanatology.

#### Thanatology Program Objectives:

- The body of knowledge in the field of thanatology including the related cultural, technological, ethical, and professional competencies.
- Skills of critical thinking and analysis by Investigating, generating, and synthesizing complex ideas and concepts at an abstract and/or applied level, critically evaluating contemporary debates and literature in their field of study, analyzing problems or issues, articulating appropriate solutions, and justifying propositions and/or professional decisions.
- Oral and written communication skills, including academic and technical writing skills, and applying inquiry-based learning and ways of thinking to new disciplinary and/or professional contexts, and communicating complex ideas in a variety of formats to diverse audiences.
- Effective collaboration with peers, colleagues, and communities by demonstrating a high level of personal autonomy and accountability in the acquisition or application of knowledge or skills and an understanding of, and the ability to apply, the principles of teamwork and collaboration.
- Equity and diversity as these apply to effective spiritual care integration and practice.
- Knowledge and skills of leadership and advocacy as applied to Thanatology.
- The organization, implementation, interpretation, and analysis of research appropriate to the field of Thanatology.



## Doctor of Theology Degree in Thanatology (DTH-TH)

The Doctor of Theology in Thanatology degree program provides students the skill set and knowledge to seek and integrate concepts of death education and spiritual care into their professional Thanatology practice.

Coursework in the program is designed to combine theoretical and practical learning, emphasizing critical thinking, analysis of thanatology concepts and practice, and the reading and application of research.

### Program Learning Outcomes:

Student will demonstrate knowledge, skills and dispositions associated with:

- The current state of knowledge regarding Thanatology, including philosophy, principles, and legal and ethical responsibilities of providers.
- Various settings in which Thanatology can be integrated into practice and the unique needs of individuals and families in those settings.
- Introductory use application of research methods.
- The design and implementation of educational practices relating to death, the dying process, end-of-life decision making and bereavement.
- Communication and networking for personal and professional growth, collaboration, leadership, and change management.

Students will participate in courses, assignments with deadlines, and the opportunity to learn with like-minded professionals. The Program ends with the student writing a dissertation that identifies a topic within spiritual care, investigates it through research, and proposes practical solutions for implementation.

### Prerequisite: Master's degree

#### Academic Requirements DTH-TH: 69 credits total

9 required core program courses (9 x 3 credits)	27 credits
4 required CPE units (1600 hours CPE) ( 4x 3 credits)	24 credits
1 required capstone dissertation paper	15 credits
1 required doctoral project and dissertation writing/3 credits	3 credits

#### Required Core Courses: 9 courses / 27 credits

- TH321 Fundamentals of Thanatology/3 credits
- TH322 Death and Dying/3 credits
- TH323 End of Life Decision Making/3 credits
- TH324 Assessing the Spiritual Needs of the Dying/3 credits
- TH325 Grief and Loss/3 credits
- TH326 Ethics in End of Life Care/3 credits
- TH327 Cultural Competence/3 credits



TH328 Funeral Practices and Post Death Rituals /3 credits

TH329 Traumatic and Sudden Death/3 credits

**Required Dissertation Writing Course: 1 course /3 credits**

DD422 Doctoral Project and Dissertation Writing/3 credits

**Required Capstone Dissertation Paper: 1 course /15 credits**

WL421 Doctoral Dissertation Writing Lab/15 credits

**Required Graduate Practicums: 4 courses /24 credits**

CPE521 Clinical Pastoral Education / 6 Credits

CPE522 Clinical Pastoral Education / 6 Credits

CPE523 Clinical Pastoral Education / 6 Credits

CPE524 Clinical Pastoral Education / 6 Credits

**Course Modality:** Asynchronous Online and Hybrid Practicum Clinicals