



The End-of-Life Nursing Education
Consortium (ELNEC)

Core Curriculum

Photo: Michele Weaver

May 1-2, 2025

Monroe Center
2000 Venture Tower Dr.
Greenville, NC

October 16-17, 2025

Monroe Center
2000 Venture Tower Dr.
Greenville, NC

Jointly provided by: Eastern AHEC Department of Nursing and Allied Health Education and ECU Health

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Description

The End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) project is a national education initiative to improve palliative care in the United States by providing consistent, advanced education on end-of-life care.

This two-day course focuses on the core areas of end-of-life care and includes palliative care; pain and symptom management; ethical, cultural, and spiritual considerations; communication; and preparation for and care at the time of death. Case studies, video clips, personal experience sharing, experiential learning and role play are used to reinforce the concepts taught. Each participant will receive an email containing a link with materials and resources discussed during the course.

This course is based on the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium training model previously supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and City of Hope National Medical Center.

Who Should Attend?

This course is appropriate for anyone whose role involves providing care for the person at the end-of-life, and/or support for their families.

- Registered Nurses
- Case Managers
- Social Workers
- Health Educators and Health Coaches
- Chaplains and other Religious Leaders
- Respiratory Therapists
- Death Doulas
- Other health care professionals who have an interest in palliative and end-of-life care, including bereavement coordinators and volunteer service coordinators.

Course Objectives

- Discuss the need to improve palliative care and role of the members of the interdisciplinary team in providing quality care.
- Review basic principles of pain assessment and management with a focus on pain at the end-of-life.
- Describe common symptoms associated with end-of-life processes for patients across the life span and interventions that can prevent or diminish symptoms at the end-of-life.
- Discuss the key ethical issues and dilemmas in end-of-life / palliative care and the resources to address these in practice.
- Identify dimensions of culture and the influence of culture and spirituality beliefs on palliative care for patients across the life span.
- Illustrate the importance of ongoing communication with the interdisciplinary team, patient, and family throughout an end-of-life process.
- Describe the challenging aspects of loss, grief and bereavement of patients and families as well as the loss experiences of health care staff providing care.
- Review the care surrounding the death of a patient emphasizing assessment and interventions necessary to ensure quality care.

Agenda

Day 1

7:30 a.m. Check-In
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Program

Day 2

7:45 a.m. Check-In
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Program

This 2-Day course will cover the following topics:

- Introduction to Palliative Care
- Pain Management
- Symptom Management
- Ethical Issues
- Cultural and Spiritual Issues in End of Life Care
- Communication
- Loss and Grief
- Final Hours
- Advance Care Planning
- Moral Distress and Self-Care

Faculty

Vicki T. Dougherty, BA, DD

Community Education and Outreach Coordinator
ECU Health

Mary Lou Infinito, CDD

Community Education and Outreach Coordinator
ECU Health

Ellie Ward, BSN, RN

Community Education and Outreach Coordinator
ECU Health

Credit

Nurses

14.5 Nursing Contact Hours

Eastern AHEC Department of Nursing and Allied Health Education is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the North Carolina Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Other Professionals

14.5 Eastern AHEC Contact Hours

Participants must attend 90% of the program in order to earn contact hour credit.

All participants will be verified by check in at the start of the program and initial out at the program's conclusion. Certificates and education credit will be awarded to all after the participant completes the online evaluation.

Handouts

Handouts will be available online only. One week prior to the program, registrants will receive a confirmation email with instructions to access handouts along with other program information.

Evaluations will be emailed after the program. Once the evaluation has been completed, your certificate will be available.

Americans with Disabilities Act



Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact the ADA coordinator at least five days prior to the event at 252-737-1018 / ada-coordinator@ecu.edu.

Registration Information

Seating is limited; early registration is recommended. Registration is online only at www.easternahec.net and requires a current MyAHEC account.

Non ECU Health Employees	\$200
Full scholarship provided for ECU Health Employees	\$0

The registration fee includes program materials, lunch (one day), breaks and credit.

In the event that there are not an adequate number of registrations to accommodate exceptional participant experience as planned, it will be canceled, and you will be moved to the next class.

NC AHEC Photo Policy

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For further information contact Eastern AHEC at (252) 744-5220.

Cancellation Policy

- Cancellations must be in writing (easternahec@ecu.edu).
- Registrants canceling between two weeks and two full business days prior to the first day of the event are refunded at 70% of the registration fee subject to a minimum \$25 cancellation fee.
- No refunds or credits will be given for cancellations received less than two full business days prior to the event.
- Cancellations greater than two weeks prior to the event will receive 100% refund.
- No vouchers will be issued in lieu of a refund.
- Transfers/substitute(s) welcome (notify in advance of the program).

Past Participant Comments

"I feel empowered to not fear these discussions as much as before. While never easy, it is unfair to rob a patient and their family of what quality time they have left due to a lack of understanding about this issue."

"This course has deepened my understanding of what role I play on the interdisciplinary team and given me some practical tools for caring for patients, families and staff in difficult circumstances."

"This wonderful training should be a requirement for anyone in a clinical field. We all need to do a better job in educating patients and families about end of life issues and of the difference between palliative and hospice care."