

Faculty profile - Eunice Gorman

Eunice has worked in the areas of oncology, palliative care, bereavement, perinatal bereavement, professional caregiver support and chronic illness as a clinician, teacher, researcher, administrator, and speaker throughout her career.



Her current research interests include: end of life care, hope, chronic sorrow, loss across the lifespan, interprofessional education, legacy leaving, bereavement support groups, professional caregiver stress in palliative care and bereavement.

She is involved in a number of community research partnerships with LHSC, Parkwood, the SouthWest LHIN, Goodwill and Daya Counselling, CHWO and Sickkids in Toronto, Ontario. Eunice sits on a number of local committees including patient and family and education committees at the CCAC, and the Bereavement Services Committee of London, Ontario. Eunice is a member of numerous Canadian, American and International professional associations related to illness, palliative care, grief and loss.

She is a member of a national work group creating educational materials to support the social work competencies in end of life care developed by a cross section of highly skilled senior social work clinicians from across Canada. Eunice volunteers at The Carpenter Hospice and Bereaved Families of Ontario.



For more information

Department of Interdisciplinary Programs
Thanatology
King's University College
at Western University Canada
519-433-3491
1-800-265-4406
www.kings.uwo.ca/thanatology-contact/
www.kings.uwo.ca/thanatology/



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Thanatology

The Thanatology program at King's is unique as it is the only university in North America to offer a BA in thanatology. The program gives students several degree options such as a major, combining it with another discipline for an honours double major, or a minor in thanatology while majoring in a complementary subject (i.e., CSI, SJP or Psychology). Many of our courses are available on-line, and our program incorporates various teaching modalities including in-class instruction, blended learning and experiential learning.



The program offers a wide variety of courses including an overview of bereavement and grief, ethical issues, palliative care, suicide, children and death, spiritual and philosophical issues, change and transition, popular culture, grief and trauma, and diversity and social justice. In addition, the program offers a practicum course which includes a 45-hour field placement, and a grief counselling course which involves experiential learning of basic counselling skills.

Courses

The introductory thanatology course is Survey of Thanatology (2200) and is taken in second year. The course is designed to introduce students to the various specialized courses that are offered within the program. The Survey course includes a wide range of topics dealing with death, grief and loss, including:

- Understanding death awareness
- Ethical issues at end of life care
- Palliative care
- How children cope with grief and loss
- The role of the media
- Understanding suicide
- Popular culture and portrayals of death
- Current trends in the funeral industry

Anyone interested in learning more about grief and loss is welcome to take Survey of Thanatology. Also, given the interdisciplinary nature of thanatology, students in CSI, social work, SJP, psychology and nursing find this course to be a highly informative addition to their program, as learning to cope with loss underlies many of the challenges that we face.

Career options

A degree in thanatology prepares students to pursue graduate education or work in many fields. Students from our program have developed careers in health care, counselling, spiritual care, research and education. In addition, students from our program have gone on to pursue further education in various areas including:

- Social Work
- Nursing
- Child Life Specialist
- Counselling Psychology
- Pastoral Counselling
- Education (teacher's college)
- Hospice & Palliative Care

What students have to say



"As Program Director at Wellspring Cancer Support Centre, the Thanatology program has offered me a multi-faceted approach and deep understanding of how grief and loss can have a huge impact not only through the loss of life, but loss of health, job, or relationships, and how to best support people dealing with loss throughout the life span."

~ Daniel Lockwood
Wellspring



"Even though the Thanatology program was not my initial reason for attending King's, I would not trade my experience for anything else! My professors are incredible because not only are they great teachers, they also bring real world experience into the classroom as the majority of them have worked in the field. I believe that through the thanatology program, I have learned one of life's most important lessons at an early age and it has taught me to truly appreciate each day and the people and things that I cherish the most. Studying death and dying has given me life."

~ Jeelise Allen
4th year International Student from Bermuda

