Loss, grief, and bereavement are part of everyone’s life. Assisting and supporting individuals and families confronting end-of-life, bereavement and non-death loss takes dedication, compassion, and empathy. It also takes an in-depth knowledge of psychological, spiritual, social, and cultural elements that impact death and grieving.

Marian University has designed an interdisciplinary Thanatology program that studies death, dying, loss, and grief. The Master of Science and Graduate Certificate in Thanatology programs are designed to prepare individuals for employment as direct-service professionals in hospices, hospitals, funeral homes, faith communities, non-profit organizations, and more. The programs combine a core curriculum grounded in evidence-based thanatology theory, research, practice, and applied ethics with study across the spectrum of end-of-life studies.

Programs are offered 100% online and have three start dates per year; January, May, and September.

For more information visit www.marianuniversity.edu/thanatology
Marian Convenience
Marian offers a rolling admission with three start dates per year; January, May, and September. Programs are offered 100% online providing you the convenience to work at your pace when and where it is most convenient.

The Marian Difference
As a leader in Thanatology education we provide you with an interdisciplinary approach to topics by faculty who are recognized leaders within their field. You’ll benefit from their personalized instruction, professional experience, and continued research.

Curriculum

Core Curriculum
THA 605 Foundations of Thanatology*
THA 615 Bereavement Theory and Practice*
THA 625 Cultural Perspectives in Thanatology*
THA 630 Thanatology Research Methods
THA 640 Applied Ethics and the End of Life*
THA 795 Applied Thanatology Capstone

Electives
Requirements: 18 elective credits for the degree and 6 elective credits for the certificate
THA 705 Death in the Lives of Children and Teens
THA 710 Understanding Suicide
THA 715 Grief after Traumatic Death
THA 720 Children, Teens, and Suicide
THA 725 Bereavement Program Development
THA 735 Palliative and Hospice Care
THA 740 Aging and Thanatology
THA 745 Spiritual Formation and Thanatology
THA 750 Grief in the Military
THA 755 Death and the Literary Imagination
THA 760 Victimology
THA 765 Complicated Grief

* Courses comprise the core curriculum for the Graduate Certificate. Certificate programs are not eligible for federal financial aid.