**Program Outcomes and Competencies: Master of Arts in Congregational and Community Care (CCC)**

**A. CCC graduates will identify congregational and community care as rooted in God’s care for the world, and relate God’s care to the role of the faith community and the role of the self in providing care.**

*For yourself:*

(1) As a leader, you will **ground your understanding of care theologically with an eye toward God's world**. Christian leaders and communities are called and shaped by a living God who initiates relationships with people of all ages in a world of many cultures.

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(2) You will **develop your own pastoral presence** and encounter God and others holistically.

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(3) You will **appreciate** **the role you play as an agent of care** and place yourself as a caregiver within the community you serve.

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(4) You will **deepen your own self-awareness and understand the ways in which your experiences, assumptions, and beliefs impact your capacity**--both positively and negatively--to engage in authentic relationship with God and with the other.

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(5) Aware of your own role in **caregiving, you will be** **attentive to self-care and inhabit healthy self-care practices.**

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(6) In addition, you will be **able to connect caregiving practices with other Christian practices within the faith community and develop coherent and ethical communal practices of care.**

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*For the communities you lead:*

Faith communities who have trained caregivers experience not only care for greater numbers of people, but also an increase in sensitivity and compassion in the community to the vulnerable, suffering, and disadvantaged.

(1) You will **develop skills to lead ministries of care** and cultivate **faith communities which become places of health and healing.**

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(2) The community you lead will give witness to a biblical and theological understanding of care embodied in their caregiving.

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(3) Your **view of caregiving will include engaging others** in your community in practices of caregiving.

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(4) You will **understand the spiritual and ethical implications of your caregiving in relation to those in your care**.

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**B. CCC graduates will construct a framework for congregational and community care that integrates biblical, theological, and theoretical resources.**

*For yourself:*

(1) As a Christian care giver, you will be able to **engage scripture, church history, and Christian thought.**

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(2) You will **identify biblical metaphors** for Christian caregiving **and interpret care situations in relation to biblical texts**.

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(3) You will summarize the Christian church’s historical approach to situations of care such as poverty, marriage, divorce, abuse and suicide.

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(4) Leading Christian caregiving you will discern how the normative texts of Christian history shape identity, worldview and practice.

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(5) Drawing on biblical, theological, and theoretical understandings and practices, you will **construct an integrated framework for caregiving ministry appropriate to the care setting** in which you will lead.

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(6) You will integrate **care ministry with other ministries** within the faith community.

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*For the communities you lead:*

(1) The community you lead will be able to engage you in understanding the complexities of caring for persons across the lifespan in diverse and inter-cultural contexts.

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(2) Integrating biblical, theological, and theoretical ideas, you will be able to share your framework for caregiving, as well as offer concrete ways this framework informs your particular community.

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(3) In addition, you will be able to lead communities into constructing their own integrated framework for caregiving.

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**C. CCC graduates will demonstrate an ability to listen to God, to neighbor, and to self, as they intervene, interpret, and lead within a variety of common care settings.**

*For yourself:* (1) You will be competent in attending to God, self, and others in care situations.

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(2) You will have empathetic listening skills, will interpret common pastoral care situations, and will demonstrate proficiency in appropriate caregiving intervention.

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(3) You will recognize your own limitations and have the ability to discern when referrals are wise.

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(4) You will be adaptable and flexible, allowing you to lead in various care settings, as you attend to God, neighbor, and the individual in caregiving.

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*For the communities you lead:*

(1) As a leader within a faith community, you will be able to discern appropriate practices and actions for caregiving in particular contexts.

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(2) You will be able to equip others in caring for others, aware of their particular setting.

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(3) Recognizing the various demands of caregiving, you will know the value of creating a care network and will be able to establish your own resource network.

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**D. CCC graduates will be able to distinguish between theological and various social scientific (psychological, sociological, biological, cultural, etc.) resources for congregational and community care, and discern the appropriate place of each in caregiving.**

*For yourself:*

(1) there are various social scientific resources which inform caring for persons and communities. As a caregiver, you will **learn to use** developmental, life cycle, family systems, interpersonal neurobiology, and compassionate communication theories **to interpret situations of care.**

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(2) You will develop clarity about how institutional and systemic dimensions of oppression are barriers to effective caregiving.

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(3) You will have the ability to **put into practice** various caregiving resources, interpret situations of care, and discern appropriate caregiving approaches.

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(4) You will be able to **distinguish the various elements present in care situations** (personal, family, communal, cultural, etc.) and connect the situation to appropriate resources and understandings.

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*For the communities you lead:*

(1) Communities can turn to you to care for individuals, families, and communities. You will have tools to assess your level of involvement in a care situation, whether to provide institutional support, information and advice, support for feelings and needs, brief crisis intervention, or to refer.

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(2) You will be able to frame interpersonal relationships and situations that involve spirituality, intimacy, and sexuality, theologically and theoretically.

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(3) You will be able to **lead communities in understanding care from various perspectives and equip them to care for themselves and others**.

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