POST-MASTER’S
CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Spirituality and Social Work

Program Director
Anthony Nicotera, JD, DSW, LSW
Program Description

This certificate program explores contemporary issues in spirituality and social work and views spirituality as a dimension in the bio-psycho-social assessment and treatment planning process. The program examines the importance of spirituality in addressing presenting problems and demonstrates its value in the clinical setting. It utilizes didactic and experiential components, including role playing, narratives, storytelling, and other pragmatic methods. Specific spiritual methods and interventions will be highlighted and applied to practice. Evidence-based practice informs the curriculum.

Program Outcomes

- Understand spirituality from a relational and pragmatic perspective.
- Develop spiritual sensitivity and competency.
- Enhance direct practice skills.
- Acquire specialized knowledge on spiritual philosophies and healing methodologies.

About the Faculty

Faculty brings a combination of extensive practice experience with spirituality in varied health, mental health, agency and private practice, as well as experience in academic teaching. They represent a wide spectrum of spirituality practices and their application.

How long will it take me to complete the certificate?

Two semesters. The program meets October through March for 18 two-hour sessions. Course sessions occur on Tuesday evenings from 6:20 to 8:20 pm.

Where can I find more information?

For program requirements, dates, times, and other detailed information, go to http://goo.gl/RPwUJR or contact silver.continuingeducation@nyu.edu.

How many continuing education credits (CEs) will I earn?

36 CEs
Course of Study

Spirituality and Social Work

The purpose is not to develop the worker’s spirituality, although this may be a secondary effect, but to understand how our spiritual counter transference impacts the effectiveness of helping clients in the area of spirituality. Students should be interested in learning how to help clients with their spiritual concerns and to draw on their spiritual resources.

Topics include

• **Intersection of Spirituality, Mysticism, and Religion:** Focuses on spirituality as a dimension within the celebration of life and meeting challenges. Spirituality and mysticism will be explored as a dimension in the context of faith, atheism, and agnosticism.

• **Relational Spirituality, Community, and Alienation:** Presents a relational paradigm of spirituality that addresses problems of alienation and nihilism.

• **The Intersection of Mind and Body: Eastern Spiritual Philosophy and Practices:** Focuses on healing methods of meditation, chi-kung, mindfulness, tai-chi, and yoga, as well as how these healing methods are considered and/or applied in social work practice.

• **Spiritual Approaches to Wholeness and Transformation of Self:** Highlights practice approaches addressing themes of guilt, forgiveness, shame and dignity, letting go of ego, surrender, resentments, hitting bottom, and concepts such as redemption and a higher power.

• **The Intersection between Spirituality, Religion, and Culture:** Explores the relationship between religion, spirituality, and issues of race, gender, and social class. The intersection between counter transference, religion, and culture will be approached intersubjectively.

• **Spirituality across the Life Cycle:** Discusses religious and spiritual rituals and practices across the life span.

• **The Contribution of Spirituality to Social Change and Social Policy:** Focuses on the historical and contemporary role of spiritual and religious movements in affecting social change and social justice.

• **Spirituality: Assessment and Transformation:** Focuses on how healing from trauma contributes to growth and restoration. Spiritual assessment of trauma, mental illness, addiction/recovery, domestic violence, divorce, infertility, and abuse will be described.

• **Case Seminars:** Students will present their own practice cases in a case seminar. We will focus on developing advanced skills in the application of our spiritual understanding to social work practice.
To Apply

An application form for this program must be filled out online from our website at:
http://socialwork.nyu.edu/alumni/continuing-education/post-masters/spirituality.html

A current resume and statement of interest must be attached with the application.

Fees
The cost is $1,980. Reading materials are included in the costs. Discounts may not be combined.

Discounts
• 25% discount for NYU SSSW MSW/PhD graduates, NYU SSSW field instructors, and educational coordinators
• 15% discount for applicants who have already completed one NYU SSSW certificate program
• 50% discount for veterans

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Stephanie Kaplan, Assistant Director
t 212.998.5973 f 212.995.4497 e silver.continuingeducation@nyu.edu

New York University
Silver School of Social Work
1 Washington Square North, Room G08
New York, NY 10003-6654


NYU Silver School of Social Work is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers. Provider #0012