

**CENTER FOR HOSPICE, PALLIATIVE CARE  
AND END-OF-LIFE STUDIES  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**

**SUPPORT FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS  
FOCUSED ON END-OF-LIFE OR PALLIATIVE CARE**

**GRADUATE ASSISTANT IN END-OF-LIFE OR PALLIATIVE CARE  
Jan 2012 – Dec 2012**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Center for Hospice, Palliative Care and End-of-Life Studies at the University of South Florida has a limited amount of funds available to support a doctoral student in any USF program whose research interests focus on palliative care and/or end-of-life care. It is anticipated that a single 12-month Graduate Assistantship will be funded at a level of \$25,000 for a .5 FTE, 12-month appointment. **This Graduate Assistantship DOES NOT INCLUDE A TUITION WAIVER. Tuition waivers and/or tuition payments are the responsibility of the student and his or her academic department administration to arrange.**

The Graduate Assistant Program will serve several functions:

1. Provide support for a doctoral student focused on research in palliative care and/or end-of-life care. This support will encourage talented students to focus their research efforts on this and related issues.
2. Encourage the development of research projects involving collaboration between USF faculty mentors and affiliated hospice organizations and other organizational partners.
3. Provide experience for the Center in the pragmatic issues faced in studies involving multiple hospice organizations and other organizational partners.
4. Generate pilot research data that can be used to guide hospice and palliative care program development and evaluation;
5. Generate pilot research data that can be used to form the basis for larger scale applications for extramural funding.
6. Provide direct assistance to affiliated hospices/institutions in research and program development efforts.

Student applicants must be enrolled and in good standing in a Ph.D. program at the University of South Florida. They must submit a proposed plan of study that presents a coherent plan to develop increased expertise in palliative care and/or end-of-life care research. This plan should include plans for a research project, and any coursework, independent study, or field experience that will advance the student's goals in developing expertise in palliative care and/or end-of-life care research. Students should submit a proposed research plan focused on the goal of developing knowledge that will

be useful in improving care for patients and/or families near the end-of -life. Preference will be given to proposals that include a plan to involve at least two hospices or other organizations affiliated with the Center (including the Moffitt Cancer Center). It is suggested that the student contact Center Executive Committee members from USF as well as from community hospice partners to determine the research priorities as proposals that will benefit the Center partnership will receive priority. The proposal should also specify a primary research mentor who agrees to supervise the student in their project. This mentor should be a Member of the Center. In cases where a proposed mentor is not currently a Member of the Center, they can apply for membership simultaneously with the student's application. The student's mentor is encouraged to have periodic contact with the student's dissertation advisory committee, and as described below, will work with a Training Committee appointed by the Center to oversee the progress of the Graduate Assistant.

The Center Executive Committee will review submitted proposals and may fund the Assistantship contingent on revisions to the protocol. Applicants should be aware that individuals from diverse backgrounds may review their proposals, therefore, clarity and completeness are essential. At the completion of the grant year, awardees will be expected to provide a written report and present the findings at a Center monthly meeting. Depending on the progress during the year, students may apply for additional years of support, depending on availability of funding.

If selected, the student should be appointed as a .5 FTE Graduate Assistant for the Fall and/or Spring semesters within their academic department, under the supervision of the faculty mentor. The primary academic department will be responsible for arranging for the student's appointment, any application for tuition waiver, or use of the funds to pay tuition if no waiver is available. As a condition of funding, the Center Executive Committee may require inclusion of an additional faculty mentor who is an experienced researcher in the area of end-of-life studies to work closely with the student and primary mentor, to assist with the development of the research project. The primary mentor, student, and members of the Center Executive Committee will negotiate details of any such conditions. The student and primary mentor will also work with a Training Committee appointed by the Center to monitor the student's progress, which should meet every three months.

As part of the 20-hour Graduate Assistantship, the student will be assigned to 4 hours per week working directly with local affiliated hospice organizations. The student will be involved in such activities as grant writing, research, and program development, and will have the opportunity to learn more about the inner workings of hospice organizations.

The **deadline for submission is September 30, 2011 by 4:00 p.m.** Successful applicants will be notified approximately 6 weeks after the submission date, with funding to commence on or about January 2012. Application forms can be obtained by contacting Lourdes Rodriguez at USF, 974-2460 or email; [lrodrig1@health.usf.edu](mailto:lrodrig1@health.usf.edu) .