



MAS 606: Ethical and Legal Issues in Chaplaincy
2hrs/3units

Faculty	Dean Ted Collins, J.D.
Office Hours	By appointment
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Required Reading:	Purtilo, Ruth. <i>Ethical Dimensions in the Health Professions</i> , 4 th ed. Philadelphia: Elsevier Saunders, 2005. ISBN:10:0-7216-0243-6
Required materials:	Microsoft Powerpoint
Recommended Reading	Colby, William. <i>Unplugged: Reclaiming Our Right to Die in America</i> . New York: AMACOM, 2007. Fadiman, Anne. <i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down</i> . New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997. Nouwen, H. <i>The Wounded Healer</i> . New York: Doubleday, 1972. Plum, Angela. <i>An Interfaith Minister's Manual</i> . Alexander, NC: Mountain Church, 2003.

Course Description:

In this course many ethical and legal issues that arise within ministry as a chaplain are presented and discussed. The primary focus will be on service in a hospital setting, but many of the issues can present in any chaplain setting. Students will gain an awareness of the beliefs and practices of various religions and cultures that may be relevant within these issues. Students will also explore how their personal credo may impact the way they counsel others. Case examples and student discussion will be a large part of this course.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain how the legal constraints around consent, records and information sharing and medical treatment impact the options available to healthcare providers and patients.
2. Articulate ethical principles and their use in the ethical framework for medical decision-making.
3. Evaluate the professional ethical considerations that arise in chaplaincy work and how to maintain personal integrity and well-being.

4. Explain the legal and ethical issues in counseling persons and families on issues such as the withdrawal of life support, withdrawal of nutrition and hydration, withholding treatment, organ donation and transplantation, and pregnancy termination.
5. Assess the unique needs of diverse religious and cultural groups in relation to these issues.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity and the Certificate in Unity Ministry:

MD-2 Foundational Knowledge

MD-4 Cultural Context

Assignments:

1. **From the Emotional Intelligence Appraisal, discuss your strengths and areas of needed development. Design a plan for developing skills in all four areas of Emotional Intelligence. Paper is 5-7 pages, double spaced, with attached plan.**
2. **Describe the key spiritual principles that inform the consciousness, qualities, and behavior of a ministry leader.**
3. **Design an ongoing practice. (to be designed as a class)**

Selected Bibliography: TBD

Your instructor will provide a complete syllabus one week before class begins.