



**Flynn  
Foundation**  
ANSWERING THE NEED FOR  
SKILLED ONCOLOGY NURSES



## Hospice & Palliative Care Undergraduate Nursing Fellowship Program

**Purpose:** This specialized Fellowship Program at HopeHealth is intended to stimulate career interests and foster the professional development of much-needed future Hospice & Palliative Care Nurses.

The program is designed to enhance the student's core hospice and palliative care clinical education through observation, exposure, and supervised participation in all aspects of **compassionate, patient-centered, family-oriented Hospice & Palliative Care** and through other "experiential learning" opportunities (e.g. person/family care, internal meetings, educational forums, and related events). By producing well educated, skilled, and prepared future Hospice & Palliative Care Nurses, the program's ultimate goal is to help optimize the quality of life of patients and families living with serious illnesses.

**Program Scope:** This preceptor-based internship program includes a comprehensive scope of observational and direct learning experiences, including exposure to:

- Interdisciplinary Team: roles/responsibilities of nurses, MDs, social workers, chaplains, grief counselors and other team members; students will attend Interdisciplinary Team meetings, and other sessions/meetings to further enhance their understanding of the multi-disciplinary process.
- Pain and Symptom Management
- Physical, Psychosocial and Spiritual Assessment & Care
- Inpatient and Outpatient Hospice & Palliative Care Services
- Comfort Care, including pediatric hospice
- Serious Illness and End-of-Life Communication Skills, including the one-day session, *Complex Care Conversations*
- Clinical and Ethical Issues/Considerations
- Home, Inpatient, Long Term Care/Skilled Nursing Palliative and Hospice care
- Advanced Illness Care program, community-based palliative care in the home
- Family & Caregiver Support Programs, including Camp Braveheart for grieving children

- Bereavement team and services
- Self-Care and Resilience
- Annual Aronson Hospice & Palliative Lecture at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University

As part of the program's academic content, Fellows are required to complete the following reading assignments and online courses prior to the start of their internship:

- **Books:** Being Mortal, by Dr. Atul Gawande and The Conversation, by Dr. Angelo Volandes
- **Reports:** *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care* (National Consensus Project, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.); *Dying in America: Improving Quality & Honoring Individual Preferences Near End of Life* (IOM report)
- **Various Online Courses and Videos:** *ELNEC Undergraduate Curriculum* (a 6 hour modular program); *Defining Hope* (Hope.film); other select webinars/videos from Vital Talk, End Well, and NHPCO, an online or in-class Serious Illness (Palliative Care) communication simulation.

In addition, as part of their learning/development experience, Fellows will complete an "evidence-based practice" ("EBP") project on an aspect of Hospice and Palliative Care Nursing, typically under the mentorship of an experienced nurse educator; EBP project topics are collaboratively determined. Individual project presentations are made at completion of program to HopeHealth's leadership and various others including family members of the Fellows, the Dean and faculty from their nursing school, and Fred Flynn at the Graduation ceremony.

**Program Schedule:** The program will be conducted Monday, June 2, 2025, through Friday, August 1, 2025, except for the week of June 30. The internship will span eight (8) weeks in length and will be conducted as an experiential experience in various settings. Schedule will include five shifts per week (including some evening or night shifts), typically involving 8 hour shifts. There will be a required graduation ceremony on Thursday, July 31 or Friday, August 1.

**Compensation:** Each student nurse will be paid a stipend of \$5,000 for this Fellowship program, 50% payable mid-way through the internship (July 7) and 50% payable at the conclusion of the internship, August 1 or 2. Each fellow will also be provided with a \$250 gas card at the beginning of the Fellowship to offset the cost of mileage/travel given that students will be driving/traveling between a variety of settings to meet their various preceptors (patient homes, nursing homes, the Hilitar Hospice Center, etc.).

**Application Process:** This Fellowship is being offered to two (2) rising senior nursing students from various undergraduate nursing schools in Rhode Island who will be

competitively selected by HopeHealth. Nursing students who are residents of Rhode Island but attend school out of state will also be eligible to apply. Before applying to this program, it is imperative to ensure each student's ability to attend the Fellowship program in its entirety. Applicants must have achieved and maintained a 3.0 GPA and be in good standing.

To apply, interested students must submit the following:

1. Resume
2. Transcript
3. Two (2) Reference Letters from recent professors, teachers, and/or clinical staff (within last 3 years)
4. 1-2 page essay on why you are interested in becoming a Hospice & Palliative Care Nurse and why you should be selected.

Applications should be sent via email to: Maria Appenfeller, RN, CHPN at  
mappenfeller@hopehealthco.org

**\*\*\* Applications must be received by Friday, February 21, 2025 at 5:00pm to be eligible for consideration \*\*\***