

UC Riverside Extension
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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA **Riverside**
Extension
Learn for Life

Certificate in
Forensic Nursing

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Extension

Learn for Career Specialization

Certificate in Forensic Nursing

OFFERED ONLINE



Certificate in Forensic Nursing OFFERED ONLINE

Forensic nursing, like traditional nursing, is divided into several specialty areas such as the sexual assault nurse examiner, crime scene and death investigator, correctional nurse and psychiatric nurse. Nurses who have an interest in the forensic aspects of health care provide necessary services for the victims of violence. Furthermore, law enforcement and the legal community are now realizing the positive impact forensic nursing is having on case outcomes. The ability to recognize forensic issues and to preserve, document and collect evidence are essential skills of today's health care professional.

The Program

This comprehensive online program is designed to introduce nurses to the forensic aspects of health care and public service. Trauma, acts of violence, mass casualty incidents, sexual assault and human abuse are explored as they relate to evidence collection and preservation, documentation and follow-up procedures as performed by health care providers. Through Web-based programming, participants engage in problem solving through the use of case study formats.

The individual courses are structured to provide both core content and an introduction to several subspecialties within the discipline including death investigation, forensic mental health, forensic photography and clinical forensic nursing. The role of the forensic specialist within the health care environment is emphasized throughout. A network of mentors is available to assist participants in gaining access to community resources for additional learning opportunities to complement online course material.

Units/Special Credit

Each course is letter-graded for professional academic credit. Transfer applicability is determined by the accepting institution.

Each course provides California BRN credit for registered nurses.

Computer Requirements

Internet access with a Web browser (Netscape 4.01 or higher or Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher), an e-mail account, Adobe *Acrobat Reader* software, CD-Rom and Microsoft *Word*. High speed internet connection such as DSL or cable recommended.

Program Objectives

Upon completion of the Certificate, the participant is able to:

- Identify and properly collect forensic evidence within the health care setting to ensure that it will withstand legal scrutiny.
- Communicate with the various members of the multi-disciplinary forensic team including victim advocates, law enforcement, and the judicial process in general.
- Determine treatment for triage and emergency intervention for patients who exhibit potential forensic implications.
- Identify basic policies and procedures required for conducting sexual assault examinations for child and adult women and men.
- Analyze the social and political implications of escalating violence as it relates to law enforcement, criminal justice and domestic living.

Eligibility Requirements

To participate in this program, participants must be a registered nurse, licensed vocational nurse or equivalent, nurse practitioner, physician, physician's assistant, SANE certified nurse, licensed paramedic, or have the consent of the UC Riverside Extension Program Coordinator.

Certificate Requirements/ Transfer Credit

The Certificate requires successful completion of 16 units: 14 units of required courses and two elective units. Elective courses must be related to forensic sciences, criminology or similar programs. Participants may transfer a maximum of four units from an accredited university or college. Official transcripts are required. Participants must receive a grade of C or better in all courses.

In addition to the academic requirements, participants must complete the certificate application form and submit the \$50 fee. The form may be downloaded from www.extension.ucr.edu. Students generally complete the certificate in nine to 18 months.

Schedule of Courses

Course schedules are posted on the Web site at www.extension.ucr.edu/certificates/forensic-nurse.html.

The courses in this brochure are offered subject to the terms and conditions contained in the quarterly catalog, *UC Riverside Extension*, and at www.extension.ucr.edu/geninfo.html.

Delivery Method

The Certificate is presented online. Each course provides an instructor and a defined time frame for completing assignments, homework and required online sessions, i.e. discussion boards or chat sessions between the students and the instructor, and the final exam. Participants are given assignments, homework, online quizzes or research projects with due dates that are submitted via e-mail to the instructor. Blackboard is used as the learning management system. Elective units may be earned through traditional or other distance education formats. Once enrolled, participants are e-mailed with further instructions.

Materials/Texts

A CD is mailed to each enrolled participant. This CD contains numerous articles for assigned readings in the courses. Participants are required to purchase textbooks as required for each course. Texts are listed with each course at www.extension.ucr.edu/certificates/forensic-nurse.html.

When You Need Help

For many, learning online is a new experience. If you have technical difficulty or questions, a program representative is available, in most cases with a same-day reply.

Fees/Financial Aid

Payment of tuition is required for each course upon enrollment. Approximate cost for the Certificate is \$3,500. Financial assistance through Citi-Assist is available. For more information or to apply, visit www.studentloan.com.

For more information or to enroll, visit www.extension.ucr.edu/hc or call (951) 827-5804.

Terms of Service

By enrolling in an online class, you indicate that you accept these terms:

Each student's and/or instructor's lessons, assignments, work, images, and correspondence is copyrighted property and cannot be copied, duplicated, posted on another Web site, or otherwise used without the original author's consent. Conversations, posted messages, and information contained within the online course are private and cannot be copied, duplicated, forwarded, or conveyed to anyone else without the original author's permission.

REQUIRED COURSES (14 units)

Introduction to Forensic Sciences Within Health Care Settings BMSC X465 (3 units)

This course introduces forensic nursing as a scientific and clinical discipline. Types and classifications of evidence, techniques for crime scene security and management of evidentiary materials within the clinical setting are discussed as they relate to the scientific investigation of injury and death. Rules of evidence in the courtroom, depositions, fact witness testimony, expert witness testimony and other aspects of legal proceedings are also presented. A series of case studies are utilized as a basis for discussion designed to demonstrate the effectiveness and value of forensic nurses within health care settings.

Forensic Approaches to Blunt Force and Firearm Injuries BMSC X465.1 (2 units)

This course examines injuries incurred from vehicular trauma, stabbings and firearms and other assaults. Emphasis is on recognition and preservation of vital forensic evidence from the victim and within the hospital or emergency department. The principles of injury mechanics and ballistics are illustrated with crime laboratory findings and case studies of victims. Common omissions and errors in injury assessment and death investigation are discussed.

Forensic Approaches to Human Abuse Injuries BMSC X465 (2 units)

This course explores the most recent findings on crimes against individuals, such as sexual assault and child abuse and includes factors that may contribute to violent acts. Evidence collection, preservation and vital documentation, and crime prevention strategies are discussed. Other topics include distinguishing accidental trauma from intentional injury, Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and legal aspects of reporting and pursuing suspected or confirmed cases of human abuse. Includes case studies.

Crime Scene Preservation and Death Investigation in Health Care Settings BMSC X465.2 (1 unit)

This course explores the essential factors of crime scene preservation with emphasis on the principles and techniques used by forensic scientists to preserve and investigate the scene. Topics include roles of various people at the crime scene, estimating the time of death, identification of bodies, and psychological profiling of perpetrators. Cases of homicides are illustrated and discussed in terms of the medicolegal aspects of injury mechanics and cause of death.

Forensic Approaches to Occupational Injuries and Emergency Response

BMSC X465.4 (2 units)

Various occupational injuries and work-related deaths are examined in terms of their medicolegal aspects. Topics include arson, burns, smoke inhalation, exposures to toxic fumes and chemicals, transportation catastrophes and other industrial accidents which have forensic implications. Special emphasis is placed on mass casualty management, workplace terrorism and management of hostage scenarios. Prevention strategies and post-crisis debriefing for survivors are included.

Forensic Mental Health BMSC X465.5 (1 unit)

The roles of forensic science within mental health and correctional facilities are explored in terms of responsibilities to the health care, law enforcement and judicial systems. Basic tenets of assessment and intervention with victims and perpetrators are explored. Topics include understanding the etiologic and motivational issues and analysis of response patterns to victimization and perpetration. Crime analysis and motivational intent of the aggressor with the context of the commission of the offense is assessed. Myths supporting a victim-blaming belief pattern are explored as part of the overall social response to crime. Additionally, those institutions that deal with victims and perpetrators are examined, including hospitals, law enforcement and courts. The course is designed for physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, and correctional and behavioral facility professionals.

Forensic Photography in the Health Care Setting BMSC X465.6 (1 unit)

This course examines the basic principles and techniques associated with forensic photography at the crime scene, in the hospital setting, during an examination or autopsy. Current techniques in producing and enhancing photographs for courtroom use are demonstrated by experts. Conventional and digital photography methods are explored.

Courtroom Testimony by the Health Care Specialist BMSC X465.7 (1 unit)

The role of the forensic nurse specialist in judicial proceedings is presented along with preparations required for the presentation of testimony. Videotaped courtroom scenarios will offer participants an opportunity to hear the testimony of expert witnesses and to critique their effectiveness in influencing the outcomes of judicial proceedings.

Forensic Approaches to Domestic Violence

BMSC X465.8 (1 unit)

Family violence is explored from several vantage points. Evidentiary sources and documentation are studied as they relate to identification of domestic violence cases, reporting strategies and referral processes. Also discussed are victimology theory, social and cultural values, and research findings that serve as a basis for establishing appropriate preventive and interventional programs within communities.

ELECTIVES (2 units)

Online elective courses are offered from time to time.

Participants may transfer units from an accredited university or college, or other organizations authorized to provide continuing education credit. Courses must be related to forensic sciences, criminalistics or similar programs. Official transcripts are required.

Note: Total transferred units may not exceed 4 units. (1 unit = 10 hours)

Certificate Advisory Committee

Lead Program Advisors:

- Faye Battiste-Otto, RN (Certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner), American Forensic Nurses, California
- Norman Miller, M.B.A., American Forensic Nurses, California, www.forensictrak.com

Janet Barber, M.S.N., RN, FAAFS (Forensic Science in Health Care, Regulatory Guidance), Indiana

Catherine Dougherty, RN, M.S. (Emergency and Trauma Nursing), Texas

Sharon Crowley, Ph.N., M.N., RN (Sexual Assault), California

Paul Clements, Ph.D., RN (Mental Health Forensics), New Mexico

University of California, Riverside

France A. Córdova, Chancellor

John F. Azzaretto, Vice Chancellor, Public Service and International Education Programs; and Dean, UC Riverside Extension and Summer Sessions

Jon W. Kindschy, Director, Natural and Social Sciences

Jennifer Campbell, Program Coordinator