Frequently Asked Questions about the Grief Support Specialist Certificate

- What makes the program at UW better or different from others and what will I be able to do with this certificate?
  - There are three major grief counseling certificate programs being offered by organizations in the country: through the Association of Death Education and Counseling, the Center for Grief and Loss, and ours through the University of Wisconsin. Most employment personnel at hospitals, hospices, funeral homes, social service agencies and schools have not heard of those first two organizations; yet they have all heard of the University of Wisconsin. Employment personnel will be receptive to responding to someone having our certificate. The types of job positions that could be considered by someone with this certificate would be jobs like: a Continuing Care Coordinator for a funeral home; a Bereavement Coordinator for a hospice, a Patient Counselor at a hospital; a School Counselor; a member of a human resource team in a corporation; a Lay Minister at a church or other religious institution; an assistant Therapist for police departments and fire departments. The list could go on and on.
  - This course is a comprehensive look at grief and loss across the life continuum, not only relating to loss with death. Topics include: assessments, styles of grieving, practical tools and techniques, spirituality, diversity and cultural humility, working with children and adolescents, disenfranchised grief, trauma recovery and compassion fatigue, compassion satisfaction and personal self-care and resiliency.

- Help me understand the project I am required to do.
  - The project or paper component has been an integral part of this program because it helps you integrate the content into your own life and work. We want the project to be something relevant to you. It might be a research paper on a specific aspect of grief (e.g. disenfranchised grief or being a survivor of a suicide), a personal reflection, a job description, a curriculum for a group or youth camp, sermons for your congregation, or a PowerPoint presentation to share with your colleagues. You will post your project/paper in the online class and present your work on Day Five in the in person class.