

HEALTHCARE AND WELLNESS

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN

# NURSE DEATH INVESTIGATION

ONLINE PROGRAM



**UCR**

Extension

Professional Studies

PROFESSIONAL  
CERTIFICATE IN

# NURSE DEATH INVESTIGATION

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“In the midst of a career and personal transition, I realized that a traditional graduate program would not be feasible. Through UCR Extension, I was able to obtain my certificate and enhance my credentials. It was convenient, affordable, and expedient. I am now prepared for a successful career in forensics!”

— Tierra Williams, RN  
Clinician II  
Children’s National  
Health System

## TAKE YOUR NURSING CAREER IN A NEW DIRECTION

The sudden or unexplained death of an individual has a profound impact on families and friends of the deceased, placing significant responsibility on the individuals who are tasked with determining the cause of death. Nurse death investigators are defining and expanding the role of the death investigator by bringing nursing science to this forensic specialty, which has historically been held by law enforcement officers. Nurse death investigators become members of the medical examiner/coroner system that works hand in hand with law enforcement and a criminal justice team. Nurse death investigators perform the critical components of death investigation utilizing their existing nursing knowledge, from assessment of the scene to collection and evaluation of evidence; to determining the cause and manner of a death.

This program is offered online and will feature lectures, discussions and assignments on how to conduct death investigations from start to finish, using scientific and established standards of forensic investigations. Advance your nursing competency to a whole new level in this fast-growing field.

### WHAT YOU’LL LEARN

- Roles and responsibilities of a nurse death investigator
- Best methods for collecting evidence, documenting a scene, and photographing and preserving evidence
- Procedures for identifying and confirming the decedent’s identity
- Changes that occur to the body following death and the stages that follow
- Process and procedure of an autopsy

### WHO CAN BENEFIT

- Registered Nurses (RNs), LVN/LPN, or other licensed healthcare worker

### PREREQUISITE

Must be a Registered Nurse, LVN/LPN, or other licensed medical professional.

### ADMISSION

Take individual courses or fulfill all of the requirements to earn your certificate. Whichever you choose, you will gain the personal power that comes through learning new skills. Be assured that you are receiving education that is backed by the UC tradition of excellence.

### APPLICATION FOR CANDIDACY

To earn your certificate, you must establish your candidacy by filing an application. We recommend you do this before the third class. Apply in person at UCR Extension Student Services office, or online through the “apply now” button on the certificate webpage.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

All courses provide California Board of Registered Nursing continuing education credit. UCR Extension is an accredited provider.

### HOW TO EARN THIS CERTIFICATE

Individuals must complete a total of 16 quarter units, with a grade of C or better.

INTRODUCTION TO  
NURSE DEATH INVESTIGATION 1 UNIT

INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC PATHOLOGY FOR  
HEALTH CARE SPECIALISTS 2 UNITS

DEATH INVESTIGATION EVIDENCE COLLECTION  
AND DOCUMENTATION 2 UNITS

FORENSIC APPROACHES TO BLUNT FORCE AND  
FIREARM INJURIES 2 UNITS

DEATH INVESTIGATION 1: NATURAL, ACCIDENTAL  
AND UNDETERMINED DEATHS 3 UNITS

DEATH INVESTIGATION 2:  
HOMICIDES AND SUICIDES 3 UNITS

DEATH INVESTIGATION 3: SUID/CHILD AND  
INFANT DEATHS 3 UNITS

- This program can typically be completed within 18 months.
- This program may be completed entirely online.

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

Prices, requirements and courses are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information:

Phone: (951) 827-4105

Email: [prodev@ucx.ucr.edu](mailto:prodev@ucx.ucr.edu)

Website: [www.extension.ucr.edu](http://www.extension.ucr.edu)