



## COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

PATHWAY: OLDER ADULTS AND CHRONICALLY ILL

### Project Description

- Palliative Medicine focuses on improving quality of life and providing expert symptoms management. This initiative focuses on addressing patients and their families as a whole - this requires an interdisciplinary team.
- Through a partnership with the Sentara Center for Health Care Ethics, students receive Advance Care Planning (ACP) training to become Advance care planning champions to help our community.
- Students also work on completing their own Advance Care Plan, allowing them to understand the cultural variability in patient experiences with end-of-life discussions.

### Annual Student Activities

- 6 students per cohort
- Students complete their own advance care planning documents
- Reflections on cultural variability in patient experience of the end of life process and on changes encountered by patients and their families throughout the process

### Community Outcomes/Results

- ↑ Understanding of the role of palliative care in patient quality of life
- ↑ Awareness of resources available to health care providers, patients, and families in the community
- ↑ Quality of care for hospice patients
- ↓ Barriers to receiving hospice care

### FACILITATOR

Marissa Galicia-Castillo, MD

### PARTNERS

Interim Hospice  
Sentara Center for Health Care Ethics

### THE NEED

- ACP can occur at any stage of life to allow individuals to maintain some control if they are unable to make medical decisions for themselves, from the person who would speak on their behalf to specific preferences for health care. However, less than 30% of people have completed documents to reflect these important conversations.
- Students in the health professions traditionally have limited experience in providing Palliative Medicine.
- For those people who have a limited life expectancy, hospice care is often misunderstood by the community which is an obstacle to providing excellent quality of life and care

### CERTIFICATION OR QUALIFICATION

CAPC Palliative Care designation