

COURSE OUTLINE

Issues of the Older Adult

Course Description

NR 226. Issues of the Older Adult. 2 hours credit. Prerequisites: NR105 with a C or better, or RN/LPN, or prior approval of instructor. This course will enable the student to meet the needs of older adults and their caregivers in the areas of adaptation to living environments, elder abuse, financial resources, and sexuality through use of community resources and education. Butler Community College is approved as a provider of continuing education by the Kansas State Board of Nursing. This course may be taken for continuing education credit in lieu of college credit hours.

Course Relevance

In response to the growing number of older adults in the healthcare system, it is imperative that healthcare professionals have an understanding of the issues that impact older adults and caregivers in order to care for them more effectively. The concepts learned in this course will enhance the student's ability to provide information and available resources to older adults.

Required Materials

Ebersole, P., Hess, P., & Luggen, A.S. (2004). *Toward healthy aging: Human needs and nursing response* (6th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Mosby.

Learning Outcomes

The intention is for the student to be able to

1. Define the roles of caregivers and older adults within the family and identify trends of caregiving
2. Identify issues related to sexuality, elder abuse, and financial resources for older adults and caregivers
3. Collaborate with older adults and caregivers to develop coping strategies to assist with geriatric issues
4. Identify resources to address these issues and needs

Primary Learning PACT Skills that will be DEVELOPED and/or documented in this course

Through the student's involvement in this course, he/she will develop his/her ability in the following primary PACT skill areas:

1. Problem Solving
 - The student will develop problem-solving skills through identification of resources and discussion of proactive measures related to issues explored throughout the course.

2. Critical Thinking
 - The student will develop critical and analytical skills through written assignments, review of state statutes and other activities conducted in this course.

Secondary skills (developed but not documented):

- Computer Skills
- Internet Use
- Health Management
- Valuing Diversity
- Ethical Conduct

Major Summative Assessment Task(s)

These learning outcomes and the primary Learning PACT skills will be demonstrated by

1. Written analysis of case studies of older adults and caregivers experiencing social and health care issues explored in this course, including a teaching plan
2. Create a resource guide which documents community resources available to older adults

Course Content

- I. Themes – Key reoccurring concepts that run throughout this course:
 - A. Awareness of older adults' and caregivers' needs in relationship to adaptation to living environments
 - B. Utilization of community and financial resources
 - C. Awareness of preventative measures, occurrences, and reporting requirements of elder abuse
 - D. Professional responsibility to act as an advocate for older adults
 - E. Knowledge and sensitivity concerning the sexual needs of older adults
- II. Issues – Key areas of conflict that must be understood in order to achieve the intended outcome:
 - A. Barriers to providing quality care for older adults including knowledge of
 - B. availability of community and financial resources
 - C. Awareness of professional responsibility regarding reporting requirements
 - D. for abuse and neglect
 - E. Personal biases and stereotypes concerning sexuality in the aging process
- III. Concepts – Key concepts that must be understood to address the issues:
 - A. Meeting older adults' needs with various care environments and caregivers
 - B. Awareness of statutes and regulations
 - C. How to access community and financial resources for older adults
 - D. Sexuality continues throughout the lifespan
- IV. Skills/Competencies – Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
 - A. Discuss advocacy and professional responsibility in meeting older adults' and caregivers' needs
 - B. Access statutes and regulations
 - C. List community and financial resources available to meet needs of older adults and caregivers
 - D. Analysis of caregiver roles

- E. Assessment of sexuality needs of older adults

Learning Units

- I. Roles and trends of caregiving and living environments
 - A. Relationships and older adults
 - B. Care giving roles
 - C. Transitions between living places
 - D. Retirement
 - E. Widows and widowers

- II. Community and financial resources
 - A. Historical background and care of older adults
 - B. Medicare and Medicaid, Social Security, Federal programs
 - C. Financial planning and long term care
 - D. Local, State, and organizational financial resources for older adults

- III. Elder abuse
 - A. Vulnerability, frailty, elder mistreatment
 - B. Abuse
 - 1. Elder violence in domestic settings
 - 2. Principles of working with frail and vulnerable older adults
 - 3. Frail and vulnerable aged and their future
 - 4. Professional accountability and reporting responsibility

- IV. Sexuality of older adults
 - A. Sexuality
 - B. Acceptance and companionship
 - C. Femininity and masculinity
 - D. Sexual health
 - E. Age variables
 - F. Alternative sexual lifestyles
 - G. AIDS and older adults
 - H. Sexual dysfunction
 - I. Chronic conditions and sexuality
 - J. Sex in the nursing home
 - K. Nursing roles and functions, assessment, intervention, and evaluation

- V. Statutes and regulations
 - A. State and Federal guidelines
 - B. Nursing home law
 - C. Association guidelines

Learning Activities

Independent study of materials supported by additional materials as required by the instructor as well as discussion of case studies, examination of professional journals, collaboration and interactive participation among class members and instructor.

Grade Determination

The student will be graded on completion of assessment tasks, class participation and discussion, as well as other methods of evaluation determined at the discretion of the instructor.