

FOREWORD  
GERONTOLOGY/GERONTOLOGICAL SERVICES  
CURRICULUM PROJECT

This Foreword has been written to provide you with a background into the Gerontology Curriculum project and to acquaint you with the contents of this CD, of courses addressing Gerontology Services. The CDs are being distributed to all of the community and technical colleges in Texas.

The Gerontology Curriculum Project was funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board with a grant from the Carl Perkins allocations for the years 2002-2003 and 203-2004. Texas, as well as every other state of the nation, and the population world wide is experiencing an aging phenomenon that has not been experienced in the recent past. In the United States the “baby-boomers” of the forties and fifties are now retiring in great numbers. Individuals with the knowledge and skills for relating to and serving this aging population are in short supply. Facilities with personnel who know how to relate to and tend to the needs of senior citizens are being constructed at a record pace.

The demographics of modern society represent a huge shift in human experience with a new proportion of people living longer and healthier. Society must adapt to and accommodate the strengths and weaknesses of this new intergenerational experience. Changes are beginning to occur throughout the business and service industries. It falls on educators to help students understand the nature of aging in preparation for this new paradigm of human experience. The Gerontological Services courses offered give community college students an opportunity for insight into the special social, psychological, health and wellness needs of an aging population.

There is a great opportunity for the community and technical colleges of Texas to address these educational needs by being prepared to offer programs that provide a broad, comprehensive knowledge of this aging population. Thus these gerontology courses were prepared.

Some of the eight courses were taken from the courses currently approved for offering in the Workforce Education Course Manual (WECM), but those courses were enhanced and strengthened. Other courses, like the Practical Edlercare Skills, Health and Wellness for the Aging, Social Work and the Aging and Substance Abuse and the Aging were developed at the encouragement of local Advisory Councils and social service agencies who deal with senior citizens on a daily basis.

The eight courses developed through the Gerontology Curriculum project are:

Aging and Mental Health - GERS 1342  
Introduction to Gerontology - GERS 1301  
Fitness and Wellness for the Aging

Psychology of Adult Development and Aging - GERS 1343  
Practical Eldercare Skills  
Social Work and the Aging  
Sociology of Aging - GERS 1351  
Substance Abuse and the Aging

Each of the eight courses was prepared in modular format so individual sections of the course could be removed and taught as stand alone sections. These modules were prepared with CEU offerings in mind to address an identified need for materials for professional development for individuals already employed by the industry relating directly to senior citizens.

Following a study of the 2000 CIP and the current offerings presently available in the WECM, the recommendation is being made that all Gerontology and Gerontological Service courses in the WECM be classified under the new 19.0702 CIP classification. It is also the unanimous opinion of the Gerontology/Gerontological Services Curriculum Consortium, and upon the advise of all local advisory councils, that in order to properly serve our students each of the eight courses identified above, should also, in addition to being placed in the Workforce Education Course Manual (WECM), be cross listed in the Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM).

Each of the course folders contains the course syllabi, learning outcomes, an assessment guide, and a course description and learning outcomes for the course. There is also a special folder of Instructional Resources to assist the instructor in finding additional information to supplement the course material. It is believed that an instructor can take any one of these courses, with the information provided, and be prepared to offer a successful course in gerontology.

Four of the eight courses

Aging and Mental Health – GERS 1342  
Introduction to Gerontology GERS 1301  
Psychology of Adult Development and Aging –GERS 1343  
Sociology of Aging – GERS 1351

were also prepared for on-line delivery. The software used in placing these courses in an on-line delivery format was xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.

There is also a file of SUGGESTED award patterns to assist an institution in designing a gerontology award for their school. We want to be clear that these are just SUGGESTED patterns for the awards (AAS, Certificate1, and Certificate2 offerings) and are intended to be nothing but a guide.

There is a Biographical Folder in which you will find information on each one of the individuals who actively participated in the success of this project. Any one of those individuals would be happy to assist you with a better understand of the project. In addition, in each Course Folder you will find the name and college association of the faculty to prepared that particular course.