

Substance Abuse and the Aging

Description: This course is designed to provide students with an overall view of Substance Abuse among the older adult population. The course will outline best practices for identifying, screening, assessing, and treating alcohol, prescription and illicit drugs among people age 60 and older. Focus will be on addressing the reality of the misuse and abuse of alcohol and other drugs; its greater toll on affected older adults; and psychosocial issues that are unique to the older adult.

Outcomes: The students will be able to identify and explore why health care providers tend to overlook substance abuse among the elderly; identify best practices for screening, assessing, and treating substance abuse in the elderly, and address future problems with substance abuse with this population.