Gerontology - Certificate
2014 - 2015 Assessment Plan

I. ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEARS 2013 - 2014

Mission Statement

UPDATE for Academic Year 2013-2014, effective 4/1/2014:

In academic Year 2011, the Gerontology Certificate Review Committee met and proposed a number of recommendations designed to update and improve the certificate curriculum and assessment process. The recommendations have been presented to the Dean who continues to collaborate with the certificate director on revising and updating the program of study. A decision is pending.

The purpose of the Certificate of Graduate Studies in Gerontology is to provide instruction, promote interdisciplinary research, and offer services that advance an understanding of gerontology by educating students who will become leaders in both academic and professional settings in order to improve the quality of life for older adults and their families, with an emphasis on:

- Study of the physical, mental and social changes in older people as they age
- Investigation of the changes in society resulting from an aging population
- Application of this knowledge to policies and programs

Goal 1.
Current Goal, brought forward from academic year 2012-2013

PLEASE NOTE: The current status quo remains in effect for academic year 2013-2014 until a final decision has been made on the review committee recommendations.

The goal of the program is to offer specialized preparation for career paths in gerontology and geriatrics through the presentation of current knowledge about the biological, health, psychosocial, economic, administrative, service delivery and social policy aspects of aging, reflecting the standards and guidelines established by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education

Curriculum

Content is covered in SOWK 771, SOWK 772, MEDI 700 and a selection of elective courses.

Learning Outcome 1.
Students will demonstrate knowledge of gerontology including but not limited to biological, social, and psychological issues that impact on older adults and those who work with and care for them.

Measures and Criteria
At least 80 percent of students will rate themselves at level 3 or higher on related items on the Self-assessment of Competencies.

At least 80 percent of students will earn a B or better on the Gero-Psychological Paper paper completed in their final semester of study.

Methods
At the end of their studies, students will fill out the self-assessment of competencies and submit it to the Graduate Certificate Director.

In their final semester of study, students will complete a Gero-Psychological Paper to the Graduate Certificate Director. This paper is a requirement for completion of the program.

See student self assessment and Gero-Psychological Paper

Results
There are no Results listed for this assessment.

Use of Results
There are no Use of Results listed for this assessment.

Learning Outcome 2.
Students will demonstrate knowledge of the basic study of aging in several disciplines, complementary areas such as nutrition and medical ethics, and applications dealing with health and social issues involving older adults.

Measures and Criteria
At least 80 percent of students will rate themselves at level 3 or higher on related items on the Self-assessment of Competencies.

At least 80 percent of students will earn a B or better on the Gero-Psychological Paper paper completed in their final semester of study.

Methods
At the end of their studies, students will fill out the self-assessment of competencies and submit it to the Graduate Certificate Director.

In their final semester of study, students will complete a Gero-Psychological Paper to the Graduate Certificate Director. This paper is a requirement for completion of the program.

See student self assessment and Gero-Psychological Paper

Results
There are no Results listed for this assessment.

Use of Results
There are no Use of Results listed for this assessment.

Learning Outcome 3.
Students will demonstrate the ability to apply gerontological knowledge, through a practicum experience in which the student works with, or on behalf of, older adults in a campus, community, or agency setting that serves this population.

Measures and Criteria
At least 80 percent of students will rate themselves at level 3 or higher on related items on the Self-assessment of Competencies.

At least 80 percent of students will earn a B or better on the Gero-Psychological Paper paper completed in their final semester of study.

Methods
At the end of their studies, students will fill out the self-assessment of competencies and submit it to the Graduate Certificate Director.

In their final semester of study, students will complete a Gero-Psychological Paper to the Graduate Certificate Director. This paper is a requirement for completion of the program.
See student self assessment and Gero-Psychological Paper Results.
There are no Results listed for this assessment.
Use of Results
There are no Use of Results listed for this assessment.

Goal 2.

Revised Goal, brought forward from academic year 2012-2013

PLEASE NOTE: The current status quo remains in effect for academic year 2013-2014 until a final decision has been made on the review committee recommendations.

The Certificate of Gerontology program is designed to meet the educational needs of a variety of student groups: those already working with the elderly, those contemplating a career change, and those working in other fields who wish to increase their knowledge of aging processes. Completion of the program will develop and/or enhance knowledge in a number of areas listed below.

Curriculum

Content areas of the certificate curriculum are covered in SOWK 771, SOWK 772, MEDI 700 and a selection of elective courses and include:

1. Psychological aspects of aging in the context of human development;
2. Aging in a political and economic context;
3. Biological and physiological aspects of aging;
4. Provisions of services to older adults in a variety of settings;
5. Communication with older persons;
6. Public policy and administration of programs for older adults.

Revised Program Objectives

Students who enroll in the Certificate of Gerontology program will participate in a curriculum that is designed to help them achieve the following objectives:

1. Receive a comprehensive theoretical overview of the field of gerontology, with emphasis on the interdisciplinary and integrative nature of gerontology;
2. Acquire a basic foundation in the psychology, biology & physiology, and sociology of aging;
3. Have opportunities for practical or hands-on experiences with older adults in the form of field placements, internships or course practica;
4. Be exposed to gerontological research techniques and methodologies, permitting students to develop their own analytic and evaluative skills;
5. Complete either a research project or field work placement practicum focused on some aspect of gerontology;
6. Supplement academic expertise in the student’s home department with gerontological content and methods to advance aging research and practice.

PLEASE NOTE: The Gerontology Certificate Review Committee will use the above specified revised goal and learning objectives to revise existing/develop new objectives as well as assessment criteria. These will be updated during the next academic assessment plan cycle.

Learning Outcome 1.

Assessment results for learning outcomes specified in the 2012-2013 academic assessment could not been tracked. The methods specified for this assessment have been recommended but have not been decided upon. Therefore, it has not been possible to hold students responsible because the methods (gero-psychological paper, self-reflective assessment) have not been stipulated to a requirement for completion of the certificate. Their completion is currently voluntary and students are encouraged to submit them to the program director, but they may choose not to do so. The program director is in the process of working with IT support at the College of Social Work to develop a web-based interface by means of which student-related information can be collected more easily and continually.

Learning objectives and assessment criteria for the 2013-2014 academic assessment plan revised goal will be updated once a decision has been made on the proposed recommendations.

II. FUTURE ASSESSMENT PLAN FOR YEARS 2014 - 2015

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Certificate of Graduate Studies in Gerontology is to provide instruction, promote interdisciplinary research, and offer services that advance an understanding of gerontology by educating students who will become leaders in both academic and professional settings in order to improve the quality of life for older adults and their families, with an emphasis on:

- Study of the physical, mental and social changes in older people as they age
- Investigation of the changes in society resulting from an aging population
- Application of this knowledge to policies and programs