

Geriatric Care Management Emphasis (GCM)

Description

The emphasis in Geriatric Care Management is sponsored by the California Wellness Foundation. It includes GRN 750, Home Care Management, as a required course. In addition, the internship requirement, GRN 838/ 839, involves placement and supervised, practical experience in a geriatric care management setting in the local community. Students concentrating in geriatric care management may also elect to focus their master's degree thesis or culminating field study in care management, which provides additional opportunity for theoretical study, research, and writing relative to this field. The program faculty are:

Cathy Cress, MSW
Marc Maisano, MA
Nina Pflumm, MA
Anabel Pelham, Ph.D.

Curriculum

The GRN 750 course is being taught, currently, by Cathy Cress, M.S.W., administrator of a geriatric care manager agency, distinguished national leader in the field, and editor of the Handbook of Geriatric Care Management. This course is pioneering the introduction of geriatric care management as a course of study at the university level. It covers the demographic, historical, and societal context of aging leading to development of the role of geriatric assessment and care management in preventing unnecessary institutionalization and providing the right level of care that assists older people, their families and third parties. The course includes the definitions and components of assessment and care management and gives attention to physical, functional, mental health, social, economic, legal, and environmental aspects.

Course objectives are to enable students to: complete and write a comprehensive assessment, using multiple assessment tools; develop and write a care plan; make an assessment visit to an older adult; use the continuum of resources in the local community to meet the client's needs and preferences; and monitor implementation and progress, re-assess client needs and preferences, and make modifications of care planning. The teaching of comprehensive assessment includes psycho-social, health, cognitive, home safety, functional family, spiritual, and pharmaceutical components. Course components include lectures and discussion, field experience in completing assessments and care plans, written reports, and oral presentations.

The Internship Course is taught by Marc Maisano, M.A. Marc Maisano presently serves California State Senator Jackie Speier as District Representative. He is an expert on legislation that impacts older adults and community-based health and human services.

GRN 838, the internship in geriatric care management, takes place in carefully selected diverse settings, including the care management units of non-profit agencies (e.g., Catholic Charities, Family Services Agency, Jewish Family and Children's Services, Meals on Wheels, San Francisco Senior Center, Self Help for the Elderly, et. al.), and a few proprietary agencies that focus exclusively on geriatric care management. These internships consist of a minimum of 180 hours of experience. Supervision is provided by on-site professionals and additional oversight, instruction, and guidance is provided through the Internship Seminar (GRN 839) at the University. There are currently 14 Geriatric Care Management internship sites.

The courses and internship required of students who concentrate in geriatric care management within the Master's degree Gerontology Program address all the goals and tasks identified in The National Association of Certified Care Manager's Role Delineation (Advanced Level) report. Each task is addressed by the combination of required courses. There are three courses, in particular, which address the majority of tasks: GRN 710 (Aging Processes); GRN 750 (Home Care Management); and GRN 839 (Geriatric Care Management Internship). The other required courses also play important roles in addressing specific tasks.

Professional Opportunities

A geriatric care manager (PGCM) is a professional, such as a social worker, counselor, nurse, or gerontologist who specializes in assisting older people and their families to attain the highest quality of life given their circumstances. How a PGCM can help you:

- Conduct care planning assessments to identify problems, and provide solutions.
- Screen, arrange and monitor in-home help or other services
- Review financial, legal, or medical issues and offer referrals to geriatric specialists to avoid future problems while conserving financial resources.
- Provide crisis intervention.
- Act as a liaison to families at a distance, overseeing care and quickly alerting families to problems.
- Assist with moving an older person to or from a retirement complex, assisted care home, or nursing home.
- Provide consumer education and advocacy.
- Offer counseling and support.
- Some PGCMs also provide family or individual therapy, finance management, and conservatorship or guardianship assistance and/or caregiving services.
- PGCMs have extensive knowledge about the costs, quality, and availability of resources in their community (this information courtesy of the PGCM home page:
<http://www.caremanager.org/>

Listed below are some of the internship sites and employers of Geriatric Care Managers:

Aging Matters, Inc., Catholic Charities, Community Circles of Care, Companion Care, Family Services Agency of San Francisco, Institute on Aging, Jewish Family and Children Services, Kimochi Inc., Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly, Meals on Wheels Case Management, Mills Peninsula Senior Focus, Network for Elders, Northern

California Presbyterian Homes and Services, North of Market Senior Services, On Lok, Planning for Elders: Senior Survival School, Project Independence, Sage Eldercare Solutions, San Francisco Probate Court, San Francisco Senior Center, Homecoming Services Program, St. Mary's Center, Self Help for the Elderly in SF, Superior Court of California-County of Santa Clara.

Scholarships:

Currently, six one-half tuition and books/materials scholarships are available to prospective students. These scholarships are provided by the funding support of the California Wellness Foundation.

The Gerontology Program is currently submitting documents to the National Academy of Certified Care Managers (NACCM) petitioning for certification of graduates of the M.A. program in Gerontology with an emphasis in Geriatric Care Management. These documents will be submitted in the Fall, 2004. The Gerontology Program is also working with the National Association of Professional Care Managers to organize the first student chapter of NAPCM.

For more information see the SFSU Bulletin, or contact the Gerontology Program.

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