GERONTOLOGY PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATE
NEEDS ASSESSMENT (ONLINE)

The purpose of this survey is to obtain information to use in a needs assessment for the possible creation of a Gerontology Practitioner Certificate that would be attained through the completion of an approved program of continuing education credits. The program would grant a certificate at the completion of the program requirements. A similar certificate program was once offered by the WVU Center on Aging, but was discontinued due to low enrollment. However, the WVU Division of Social Work and its partners have noticed increased interest in this field. The results of this survey and feasibility study may be used to establish curriculum for a renewed Gerontology Practitioner Certificate Program. If offered, a new Gerontology Practitioner Certificate Program would provide Continuing Education Credits to social service professionals & related disciplines in West Virginia and the surrounding area.

Please fill out the following survey as completely as possible and only complete it once. Please share the link to the survey with others who may also be interested in gerontology/geriatrics training. If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Kristina Hash in the WVU Division of Social Work at kmhash@mail.wvu.edu or (304) 293-8807.

This assessment is funded by the WV Long-term Care Partnership (http://www.wvltcpartnership.org).

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Please complete this survey by  ____

SECTION I: YOUR ATTITUDES ABOUT A CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The previous gerontology practitioner certificate had the purpose of extending the understanding of the process of aging and to strengthen the professional skills of persons who work with older adults. The program was geared toward the needs of individuals who wished to further their professional training while they worked.

The program required the completion of a minimum of 110 Continuing Education (CE) hours within a five-year period.

Ten CE hours were required in each of the following content areas: 1) Physiological Processes and Health in Older Adults; 2) Psychological Processes and Mental Health in Older Adults; 3) Social Policy and Aging; and 4) Aspects of Rural Aging.

Thirty CE hours focused on skill areas in working with older adults and included: 1) Interactive Skills; 2) Grief and Loss; 3) Community Programs; 4) Counseling and Interviewing; and 5) Families of Older Adults. Forty CE hours were selected from a pool of electives.

Required and elective workshops were offered independently and in conjunction with other major conferences in West Virginia.
1. If the gerontology practitioner certificate were offered again, as described above, would you be likely to enroll in the program in the next two years? (Please check ONE)

Yes

No

Maybe

1a. If you answered “yes” or “maybe”, what would you hope to gain from the program? (Please check ALL that apply)

- Increased knowledge in aging
- Increased competency in aging
- Licensure CE requirements
- Networking opportunities with other professionals
- Career change
- Job promotion
- Pay raise
- Job security
- Professional status recognition
- Personal satisfaction and growth
- Other (please specify)

1b. If you answered “no”, why not? (please check ALL that apply)

- Already have the certificate
- Already have similar training
- Would take too much time to complete the certificate
- Retiring soon
- Changing careers
- Not helpful for my career
- Do not have the time to attend CE events
- Do not need CEs
- Need college credit
- Lack of employer support for CEs or certificates
- Lack of employer support for time off
- Lack of employer reimbursement of CEs
- Lack of access to CE events
- Personal cost to obtain CEs or certificates
- Other (please specify)

1c. If you answered “no”, please indicate the possible modifications that might encourage you enroll in the program (please check ALL that apply)

- I would consider enrolling if the total required hours for the certificate were reduced
- I would consider enrolling if the total time to complete the certificate was reduced
- I would consider enrolling if I knew that CE events would be offered near me
- I would consider enrolling if a portion of the required hours for the certificate were offered online
- Other (please specify)
2. To better help us develop a curriculum for a practitioner certificate program, please identify (from the list below) 5 to 10 topics on which you want or need more training:

Elder Abuse and Neglect/ Domestic Violence
Aging Policy and Programs
Appalachian Culture
Aspects of Rural Aging
Caregiving Issues
Chronic Diseases
Cognitive Changes and Aging
Communication and Aging
Communication Disorders
Community-based Care
Counseling Older Adults
Cultural Differences
Creativity and Aging
Dementia and Related Disorders
Demographics of Aging
Developmental Disabilities
End of Life Issues
Faith Development and Aging
Family Issues
Grief and Loss
Health Care Policy and Programs
Health Literacy
Healthy Aging
Housing for Older Adults/Homelessness
Income Security Programs
Legal Issues
Leisure and Recreation
Long-term Care
Love, Intimacy and Sexuality
Medication and Drug Management
Mental Health Issues
Nutrition
Personality and Aging
Prevention of Falls
Program Administration
Other (please specify)

3. If some of the practitioner certificate offerings were provided online, how likely would you be to access this material online?

Not at all likely
Somewhat likely
Likely
Very likely
SECTION II: YOUR CURRENT CONTINUING EDUCATION PRACTICES

4. How do you currently meet your Continuing Education (CE) needs?  
(Please check ALL that apply)

- Advanced Geriatric Educator Skills Training (AGES)  
- CAMC/WVGEC Geriatric Lunch and Learns  
- CAMC/WVGEC Journal Club  
- NASW-WV Management Institute  
- NASW-WV Spring Conference  
- NPSA Conference  
- Summer Institute on Aging  
- Summer Series on Aging (University of Kentucky)  
- WV Health Care Association Long Term Care Social Work Conference  
- WV Geriatrics Society Scientific Meeting  
- WVNA Annual Conference  
- WVPHA Annual Conference  
- WV Rural Health Conference  

- Employer-Related Training  
- WVU Division of Social Work workshops  
- Other workshops  
- Online Training  
- Personal Reading  
- Academic Coursework  

- Other (please specify) __________________________

5. Which type of format/presentation style would be the most helpful in attaining your CEs?  (Please check TWO)

- Lecture  
- Experiential  
- Mixture of lecture and experiential  
- Primarily discussion-oriented  
- Audio/Visual techniques (Power Point, videos, tapes, etc)  
- Online training  

- Other (please specify) __________________________

6. Which town are you willing to travel to for CE events?  (Please check TOP TWO)

- Beckley       Martinsburg  
- Charleston    Moorefield  
- Clarksburg    Morgantown  
- Elkins        Parkersburg  
- Flatwoods     Princeton       Roanoke  
- Huntington    Lewisburg       Wheeling  

SECTION III: YOUR BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

7. How many years of experience do you have working in the field of gerontology/geriatrics?
   
   No experience in the field  
   < 1  
   2-5  
   6-10  
   11-20  
   21-30  
   30+  

8. What is your current, primary professional role?  
   (Please check ONE)  
   
   Direct Practice/Clinical  
   Supervisor  
   Administration  
   Planning  
   Higher Education  
   Other (please specify)  

9. Which setting best characterizes your primary place of employment?  
   (Please check ONE)  
   
   Adult Day Care  
   Ambulatory Care  
   Assisted Living  
   Chiropractic Clinic  
   Dental Clinic/Office  
   Department of Social Services  
   Developmental Disabilities  
   Dialysis Unit  
   Extension Services  
   Faith-Based Services  
   Health Clinic  
   Health Department  
   Higher Education Institution  
   Home Health  
   Hospice  
   Hospital  
   Information and Referral  
   Nursing Home  
   Office for/Area Agency/Commission on Aging
10. What percentage of older adult clients/patients does your primary place of employment currently serve? (Please check ONE)

- <10
- 11-20
- 21-30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51-60
- 61-70
- 71-80
- 81-90
- 91-100

11. What do you consider to be your primary discipline in terms of education? (Please check ONE)

- Counseling
- Dentistry/Dental Hygiene
- Divinity
- Education
- General Education
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Occupational Therapy
- Pastoral Care/Counseling
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Psychology
- Public Administration
- Public Health
- Social Work
Sociology
Speech Pathology/Audiology
Other (please specify)

11a. What is the highest degree that you have earned in the discipline selected above? (Please check ONE)
- High School diploma or GED
- Associate’s degree
- Bachelor’s degree
- Practitioner’s certificate
- Master’s degree
- Doctorate
- Other (please specify)

11b. Do you currently hold a professional license related to ANY of the disciplines listed above? (Please check ONE)
- Yes
- No

12. What type of formal training do you have related to gerontology/geriatrics? (Please check ALL that apply)
- For-credit courses in gerontology or geriatrics
- Certificate in gerontology (college credit)
- Geriatric clinical rotation
- Field placement or internship
- Minor in gerontology
- Gerontology practitioner certificate (continuing education credit)
- Continuing education in gerontology or geriatrics

13. What led you to work in the field of gerontology/geriatrics? (Please check ALL that apply)
- Have not worked in this field
- Personal or family experience
- Job opportunity
- Volunteer experience
- For-credit coursework
- Field placement, internship or rotation
- Having direct experience with older adults as part of a for-credit course
- Continuing education
- Other (please specify)

13a. If you wish, please expand on the answers that you selected above in question 13:
14. What factors would keep you working in the field of gerontology/geriatrics? (Please check ALL that apply)

Have not worked in this field
Further for-credit education in the field
Further continuing education in the field
Increased salary
Improved employee benefits
Improved working conditions
Improved supervisory relationships
Increased payments for services
Student loan forgiveness
Increased opportunity for career growth
Increased opportunity for leadership in the field
Other (please specify)

14b. If you wish, please expand on the answers that you selected above in question 14:

15. What county/geographical area do you live in? (Please check ONE)

Please provide any additional comments that may help us better understand the need and/or curriculum for a practitioner certificate in gerontology:

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Thank you for your participation!