

Advanced Interprofessional Diploma in Gerontology

INFORMATION PACKAGE 2020 – 2021



HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES

ADVANCED INTERPROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN GERONTOLOGY

Globally, older adults are increasingly representing a growing percentage of the population. By 2030, 25% of Canadians will be over 65; 12% will be over 85 years of age (Miller, 2015). It is estimated that 75% of medical time will be spent with older adults by 2020 (Holroyd, Dahlke, Fehr, Jung & Hunter, 2009).

All health professionals who work with older adults require specialized knowledge to effectively educate, assess and care for older adults. Health professionals require tools and skills to meet the complex physical, social, environmental, cognitive and spiritual needs of older adults and the ability to analyze gerontological trends.

An interprofessional focus fosters a deeper understanding of differing roles and the opportunity to collaborate to best meet the needs of the older adult in differing contexts.

SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM

This interprofessional program is designed for health care professionals who work with older adults. Students will learn about the elements that contribute to healthy aging and analyze factors that deter or undermine wellness. The program will support students to use a conceptual framework for gerontological assessment in the spheres of psychosocial, physiologic and mental health. A choice of several electives allows students to enrich their professional learning needs.

PROGRAM DESIGN

This diploma program will appeal to Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Psychiatric Nurses, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Social Workers or Human Services Diploma professionals working in care venues who seek specialized knowledge in gerontological care. Some courses may also be credited as electives in other university programs.

Distance Education allows professionals the flexibility to immerse themselves in a dynamic specialty while pursuing other life and career goals.

Variety and choice within course assignments encourages the student to pursue topics of personal interest. Online interaction with other health professionals enhances learning and application of course content, and allows professionals to appreciate varied scopes of gerontological practice.

GENERAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the completion of this diploma program each participant will:

- interpret basic gerontology trends and issues;
- accumulate and test a wide variety of health assessment tools;
- be equipped to provide leadership in team settings;
- demonstrate critical, innovative thinking in problem solving;
- illustrate how to educate towards wellness; and
- develop advocacy skills at relational, unit, and policy-making levels.

TIME FRAME

This program can be completed within two years of part-time studies, and must be completed in four years. Students can start the program in September, January or April each year. Please note, not all courses are available in all semesters. The Admissions Officer will provide you with a course schedule upon registration.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

FULL DIPLOMA

Nurses, (RN's, LPN's or RPN's), Social Workers, Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists, and Human Services Diploma with a minimum of one year experience working with adults. Professionals in other fields – please contact the Program Coordinator.

INDIVIDUAL COURSES

Health professionals or students in human service fields who wish to take individual courses or who choose to work at a slower pace while completing course requirements.

CONTACT US TODAY!

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Nicole Brown, Nursing Faculty
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ENROLLMENT /ADMISSIONS

Gerontology Program
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SCHOOL CHAIR

Tammie Clarke, Chair
School of Health and Human Services
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HOW IS THIS COURSE OFFERED?

All courses are offered on-line through Moodle, a learning management system: moodle.selkirk.ca

WHAT IS THE COST FOR THIS PROGRAM?

- Gero 200 (Fall term) is approximately \$235.00
- Each 3 credit course is approximately \$655
- Each 2 credit elective is or up to \$440
- Books can cost up to \$500 (per course or for the entire program)

All current and up-to-date costs are featured at selkirk.ca/tuition-fees.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL I NEED TO SPEND ON COURSE WORK EACH WEEK?

- 3 credit course: 7-10 hours of work per week
- 2 credit electives: 4-6 hours of work per week

To complete the Diploma program, each participant will have to take five 3 credit core courses and a minimum of two 2 credit electives.

COURSES

CORE COURSES (15 CREDITS)

Participants must take GERO 200, IPHE400, IPHE 503 and 2 other core courses.

GERO 200-3 – CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN GERONTOLOGY - REQUIRED COURSE

The rapidly aging population of industrialized countries will impact or change all aspects of our society over the next 50 years. This course will provide a historical perspective and overview of aging in Canada.

Prerequisites: Health or Social Science Students or Professionals.

IPHE 400-3 – INTERPROFESSIONAL CARE OF THE OLDER ADULT - REQUIRED COURSE

This course focuses on health promotion and the unique roles and functions of older adults by exploring historical underpinnings, societal needs, and current issues. Two conceptual models and assessment tools will provide groundwork for critical analysis.

IPHE 501 -3 – PSYCHOSOCIAL ISSUES IN AGING

As people age, cognitive function can be impacted by life events, acute /chronic disease, or environmental stressors. With a view to helping the older adult attain their optimal level of wellness, this course explores psychosocial issues through the lens of two theories: Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and Successful Aging.

IPHE 402-3 – PHYSIOLOGICAL FUNCTION IN OLDER ADULTS

This course focuses on the normal changes of aging in all body systems as well as acute and chronic illness. Using Carol Miller's (2009) Model for Promoting Wellness in Older Adults, an exploration of potential risk factors, iatrogenic complications, and functional challenge of the older adult will be explored.

IPHE 503-3 – DELIRIUM, DEMENTIA AND DEPRESSION – REQUIRED COURSE

This course examines current theories of causality, presenting behaviours, risk factors and therapeutic approaches for these conditions from different healthcare professional perspectives. Dementia care and interventions will focus on methods to enhance and retain older adult abilities. The impact on the family and professional caregivers will also be explored.

IPHE 504-3 SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXTS INFLUENCING AGING

This course focuses on the broader social context of an aging person's life. Topics include senior-appropriate housing, financial viability, changing family dynamics, caregiver assessment, cultural diversity and health policy.

ELECTIVES (4 CREDITS)

IPHE 401-2 – SPIRITUALITY IN AGING

This course examines the importance of spirituality in aging, and its effects on health and wellness and achievement. Current research and tools to assess spiritual needs will be examined. Opportunities for caregivers to promote the spirituality of aging persons will also be explored.

IPHE 410-2 – MEDICATION USE AND ABUSE

Most aging people use medication (prescription or over-the-counter) to treat a variety of chronic or symptomatic problems. This course seeks to define the role of medication management with aging clients. An understanding of the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics related to the aging body will assist students in understanding drug reactions.

IPHE 512-2 – MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTIONS AND WELLNESS IN LATER YEARS

This course will explore vulnerabilities that predispose older adults to mental distress or illness with a focus to stabilize, improve ability to problem-solve, make personal decisions, and maintaining personal integrity and dignity. Mental wellness and brain health can be boosted by timely assessment and diagnosis with appropriate treatment, education or social support.

IPHE 513-2 – END-OF-LIFE CARE AND PALLIATION

Palliative care is the unique way caregivers think, respond, and act as they give skilled and compassionate care to a dying person and the support system of that person. The course begins by helping each professional understand their own perceptions of death and palliation by reflecting on their experiences with dying people. This course will explore research about symptom assessment, management, and palliative emergencies.

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE GERONTOLOGY PROGRAM

Applicants can apply online at www.selkirk.ca. Look for the top right APPLY TODAY button.

Notification of your acceptance into the program will be emailed when your application has been approved by the Program Coordinator. Once accepted, you may register for the first course or elective.

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