



Age-Friendly Specialist Certificate of Achievement Program

Overview



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The Age-Friendly Specialist Certificate of Achievement Program is a non-academic program with a two-fold purpose:

- broaden understanding of the processes of aging and the diversity of older adults' needs and services required to support them
- enhance skills important to interactions and working with older adults

Participants & Rationale



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Open to anyone whose work or personal life includes older adults, as well as individuals with a career or personal interest in the processes and effects of aging.

A workforce familiar with concepts found in gerontology and geriatrics is needed to meet the diverse needs of our growing, diverse population of older adults.

- 10,000 people turning 65 every day. By 2030, older adults will represent more than 20% of the American population and by 2034 there will be more people age 65 and older than under the age of 18
- Older adulthood is the most heterogeneous period of the entire life span
- Unprecedented 350% increase in the population aged 85 and older expected during the first half of the 21st century.
- Older adults today are much more culturally diverse than previous generations. While some individuals require a complex array of care and management, many continue to live healthy lives and contribute to society in myriad ways. This means the possibilities to work with and on behalf of this population are limitless.
- In addition to the health care industry, there are opportunities in business & entrepreneurship, education, recreation & leisure, mental & physical health and wellness, government services, research, public policy, academia, and other areas supporting our aging population and their families at the individual, organizational, and societal levels



Cost and Completion

- One-time \$50 program application fee
- Registration fees, if any, associated with event attendance (payable to event host)
- Complete 100 hours of approved workshops, seminars, conferences, etc.
- Complete the requirements within two (2) years of application
- Program is self-paced and does not need to be completed in any particular order

Requirements



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Content Components (minimum 6 hours each grouping [30 hours]):

- Physiological Processes and Health in Older Adults
- Psycho-social Aspects of Aging
- Policy and Aging
- Diversity & Cultural Competency in Aging
- Ethics and Aging

Skill Components (minimum 5 hours each grouping [30 hours]):

- Communication
- Person-centeredness
- Assessment
- Counseling/Interviewing
- Care Planning
- Health & Well-Being Management

The remaining 40 hours can be completed by attending any combination of approved workshops, seminars, and conferences within the above Content and Skill units.

A minimum of 30 hours must be activities sponsored by University of Maryland, Baltimore's Geriatrics & Gerontology Education and Research (GGEAR) program



More Information & Application

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<https://www.umaryland.edu/gerontology/education-and-training/graduate-school/geri-ed/>