

Gerontology Practitioner Certificate



- What:** A continuing education certificate program focused on extending the understanding of the process of aging and strengthening the skills of persons who work with older adults or care for older loved ones.
- For Whom:** People who have assumed (or are interested in pursuing) direct and or professional care with older adults.
- Why:** *West Virginia is aging.* With the second largest population of older persons in the nation, the Mountain State's older residents face unique challenges in older adulthood, including poverty, obesity, and disability, as well as limited access to medical and social services.¹ Participation in an instructional program such as the Gerontology Practitioner Certificate will enhance participants' ability to deliver effective services to older adults
- How:** Complete a Gerontology Practitioner Certificate application with WVU School of Social Work (available at <http://socialwork.wvu.edu/certificate-programs/gerontology-practitioner-certificate>). Begin attending continuing education events approved for the Gerontology Practitioner Certificate. *Note: The WVU School of Social Work will offer some courses; other continuing education providers (i.e. NASW, WVGEC) will also provide approved sessions; some classes are online; and an approval process will be available whereby participants can request workshop approval for sessions not pre-approved.*
- Costs:** A \$30 application fee plus cost of the CE events.
- Details:** Participants must complete 100 hours of coursework in two mandatory categories, content and skill areas (see below for details). This program is self-paced. The content and skill areas do not need to be completed in any particular order. Some courses will be available online, **but the whole program cannot be completed online.** Participants will have up to 4 years from their date of application to complete the full certificate.

Content Areas (6 hours each/30 hours total):

Physiological Processes and Health in Older Adults
Psychological Processes and Mental Health in Older Adults
Social Policy and Aging
Aspects of Rural Aging
Ethics and Aging

Skill Areas (6 hours each/30 hours total):

Communication
Assessment
Counseling/Interviewing
Case Management
Management

Participants will obtain the remaining 40 hours by attending workshops of their choice in any combination of the ten above Content and Skill areas.

For more information or to be added to the Gerontology Practitioner email listserv, contact Jacki Englehardt, Coordinator of Professional & Community Education, WVU, 304-293-3280 OR jacki.englehardt@mail.wvu.edu

1. Wu, B. Aging in West Virginia: Findings from the 2000 Census. Retrieved from: http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/coa/publications/Wu/download_aging2.asp