COURSE: GERONTOLOGY

OVERVIEW OF COURSE

Goal

The goal of this course is to help students develop positive attitudes toward the elderly and understand the contin ity of life and its impact on youth. The knowledge gained by the students can be appli to present family situations and used in their own continual growth and development for an improved quality of life. Students will also be able to focus their career development on occupations related to the mature adult.

Description

In this course, students will explore ways to bridge the gap between mature adults, adults and adolescents. Students will be able to interact with mature adults and professionals in living and working environments in preparation for potential employment. The course provides essential knowledge for students pursuing a human development sequence and related careers.

Skills, Knowledge, and Behaviors to be Developed

The ability to:

1. Identify common myths about the aging and positive facts to dispel stereotyping.
2. Recognize the aging process and identify factors that will contribute to a productive and longer life.
3. Identify the changes that occur throughout the aging process, the needs created by these changes, and ways to respond to the needs of the elderly.
4. Recognize that adolescents and mature adults have similar interests, aspirations, and needs.
5. Examine factors in the environment of the elderly that make them vulnerable to criminal acts and susceptible to accidents, and suggest ways of prevention.
6. Examine the housing choices of the elderly and how choices are made.
7. Research career opportunities in the field of gerontology.

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<u>CONTENT OUTLINE</u>

I.   The Mature Adult in the Lifecycle

    A.   Who is the Mature Adult?
    B.   Myths and Reality of Old Age
    C.   Life Span Potential
    D.   The Aging Process
    E.   Cultural Perspectives of Adulthood/Aging

II.   Understanding the Needs of the Aging

    A.   Physical Needs
    B.   Social Needs
    C.   Intellectual Needs
    D.   Emotional Needs
    E.   Management Considerations
    F.   Communicating: A Two-way Need
    G.   Concerns of the Elderly
    H.   Elderly Abuse

III.   Community Supports for the Aging

    A.   Safety
    B.   Housing
    C.   Recreation
    D.   Public Policy and Human Services
    E.   The Mature Adult as a Resource
    F.   Advocacy/Resources

IV.   Service to the Mature Adult as Potential Employment

    A.   Careers Relating to the Mature Adult
    B.   The Home Care Assistant
    C.   The Entrepreneur: Servicing the Mature Adult