Gerontology - Aging Services Professional  
(Pending Approval)  
10-544-1 Associate Degree

Program Overview
The Gerontology-Aging Services Professional program is designed to meet the emerging and rapidly growing demand for service providers needed to work with the aging population. Students will acquire comprehensive and interdisciplinary training to prepare them to work with older adults in a variety of positions and in diverse settings such as: community, non-profit and government agencies, counseling centers, adult care, memory care, senior centers, home health care, assisted living, long-term care, nursing homes, group homes, hospitals, Hospice, and business and industry. This innovative and flexible program blends online and in-person experiential learning with community-based fieldwork and is designed to fit into busy life schedules. Students can choose part-time or full-time program options and mix and match coursework. It is ideal for people entering the job market or choosing to enhance their current careers in service delivery or leadership roles within the gerontology field. Graduates will be added to the Wisconsin Community-Based Residential Facility (CBRF) Employee Registry and will receive a Red Cross First Aid and Choking certification card.

Special Features
- Flexible course selection and scheduling designed to assist with life planning
- 8 week rotating block courses offered in online and in-person evening formats
- Part-time and full-time program options with flexible entry and exit
- Ideal for people entering the job market or choosing to enhance their current careers in service delivery or leadership roles within the gerontology field
- Graduates will be added to the Wisconsin Community-Based Residential Facility (CBRF) Employee Registry and will receive a Red Cross First Aid and Choking certification card.

Admission Requirements
Students in this program must:
- Complete application form and submit with fee (fee waiver may apply if previously submitted)
- Complete Accuplacer entrance assessment to determine placement (waiver may apply with acceptable alternative test scores and/or postsecondary degree completion)
- Have earned a high school diploma or GED certificate; current high school seniors must provide documentation upon graduation
- Review and sign the Functional Abilities Statement of Understanding
- Review and sign Caregiver Background Check and/or Criminal History Record Check Statement of Understanding
- Complete admissions interview with a WITC counselor (above requirements should be completed prior to interview)

Program-Specific Requirement
Students in this program must:
- Complete and sign Background Information Disclosure Form (BID)
- Submit Background Check fee
- Have an acceptable Wisconsin Caregiver Background Check or Minnesota Caregiver Background Check as applicable
- Information from the Caregiver Background Check may affect ability to secure fieldwork placement and the ability to find employment after graduation

Student Profile
Students entering the Gerontology - Aging Services Professional program should:
- Have a responsible attitude and commitment to serve others
- Communicate effectively in writing and speech
- Think critically and use good judgment
- Exhibit cultural awareness and develop positive rapport with diverse groups
- Accept and respond appropriately to feedback
- Possess a positive attitude and commitment to serve others
- Demonstrate emotional stability and maturity

Preparation for Admission
Students should strive to reach a comfort level in the following courses or skills:
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Speech/Communication
- Health
- Parenting/Family Living

Program Outcomes
Employers will expect Gerontology - Aging Services Professional graduates to be able to:
- Demonstrate professionalism
- Integrate knowledge of physical, social, psychological and spiritual aspects of aging into service delivery
- Apply safe, legal, and ethical gerontological standards and practices
- Navigate complex systems that provide assistance to older adults
- Cultivate professional relationships
- Model a commitment to cultural competence and advocacy

Collegewide outcomes and indicators will also be addressed to develop personal awareness, career effectiveness, and professionalism. See page 5 of the college catalog for a list of college outcomes and indicators.

Career Outlook
Gerontology - Aging Services Professional program graduates will be well prepared to use their knowledge, skills and abilities working with older adults in a variety of positions in diverse settings such as:
- Community, Non-Profit and Government Agencies
- Counseling Centers
- Adult Care
- Senior Centers
- Home Health Care and Assisted Living
- Long-term Care, Nursing Homes and Group Homes
- Hospice
- Hospice
- Business and Industry

Potential Job Titles:
- Aging Services Provider
- Advocacy Specialist
- Geriatric Care Specialist
- Dementia Care Specialist/Provider
- Benefits Coordinator
- Client Navigation Specialist
- Activity/Recreation Coordinator
- Housing/Transportation Specialist
- Program Planner
- Private Service Provider/Small Business Owner

Curriculum
Number Course Title Credits

Technical Studies Courses
10501108 Healthcare Computing 2
10520103 Ethics in Human Services 3
10520112 Family Systems 3
10544100 Communication of Aging 3
10544101 Social Gerontology 3
10544102 Psychological Aspects of Aging 3
10544103 Gerontology Fieldwork 1 2
10544104 Physical Aspects of Aging 3
10544105 Dementia and Alzheimer’s 3
10544106 Healthy Aging 3
10544107 Death and Dying 3
10544108 Developing the Gerontology Professional 3
10544109 Gerontology Fieldwork 2 2
10544110 Programs of Aging Services 3
10544111 Legal and Financial Issues of Aging 3
10575100 CBRF Caregiver Fundamentals 2 2

General Studies Courses
10001195 Written Communication ▲ 3
10001198 Speech or 3
10001196 Oral/Interpersonal Communication 3
10004123 Math with Business Applications ▲ or 3
10004107 College Mathematics ▲ or 3
10004189 Introductory Statistics ▲ 3
10006198 Human Biology 4
10009159 Abnormal Psychology 3
10009172 Introduction to Diversity Studies 3
10009198 Introduction to Psychology ▲ 3

Program Requirements 66
▲ Requires a prerequisite and/or corequisite that must be completed with a grade point of 2.0 or better.
See pages 41-43 for course descriptions.
Students must earn a grade of 2.0 or better in all required technical studies courses.
Go to witc.edu for most current information.
10501108 Healthcare Computing - Credits: 2
This course provides an introduction to basic computer applications used in healthcare settings, including common software packages, operating systems, file management, word processing, spreadsheets, databases, the Internet and e-mail. Students are introduced to the hardware and software components of computer systems and electronic medical records.

10520103 Ethics in Human Services - Credits: 3
This course explores the ethical, legal, and professional issues facing the human services worker. It is designed to teach a process of ethical decision-making and to increase awareness of the complexities in practice. Students are introduced to the current state and federal statutes, regulations, and judicial decisions that govern the professional practice in human services. Standards, code of ethics, clients' rights, and confidentiality are emphasized.

10520112 Family Systems - Credits: 3
This course focuses on issues related to families and family functioning relevant to the human services field. Major areas of focus will include child maltreatment, domestic violence, and addiction, with emphasis on relevant helping skills and services.

10544100 Communication of Aging - Credits: 3
Develop effective communication strategies and supportive interview techniques that enhance rapport and relationships with aging populations. Apply ethical principles, standards and boundaries that acknowledge self-determination.

10544101 Social Gerontology - Credits: 3
Explore aging in respect to social roles and processes. Topics include history of aging, demographics, family relationships, social supports, economics, retirement, loss, poverty and politics of aging.

10544102 Psychological Aspects of Aging - Credits: 3
Recognize how experience and history affect the value and societal expectations of each generation. Understand diversity among older adults including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity; culture; sexual orientation; and physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities.

10544103 Gerontology Fieldwork 1 - Credits: 2
Examine the scope, values, and principles of the gerontology profession. Coursework introduces the typical roles and duties of aging services professionals. Students assess their own motivations, attitudes, and interests. In addition to the regular classroom hours, observation and fieldwork in a community-based setting working with older adults is required. Students must complete or have on file current, valid Background Information Disclosure (BID) and Caregiver Background Check (annual Wisconsin and Minnesota) forms as part of this course.

10544104 Physical Aspects of Aging - Credits: 3
Analyze normal and pathological changes occurring in the aging human body with special emphasis on age-related chronic diseases. Topics addressed include analysis of biological theories of aging, cultural/ethnic influence on aging pathologies, and other factors impacting the aging process.

10544105 Dementia and Alzheimer's - Credits: 3
Examine the signs, symptoms and stages of Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia and how these diseases affect physiology and brain function. This course focuses on the principles of communicating and providing care to individuals with memory loss and confusion while learning the best practices for dealing with behavior changes, challenges with the activities of daily living, and strategies to assist caregivers.

10544106 Healthy Aging - Credits: 3
Investigate practices that promote healthy aging including nutrition, physical activity, prevention practices, and commonly prescribed medications for the older adult. Emphasis will focus on the "well" elderly population and practices identified to address current aging trends.

10544107 Death and Dying - Credits: 3
Explore societal, cultural, and personal views of death, dying, and bereavement. Examine losses experienced during the course of aging beyond the physical and emotional process of death and dying. Determine strategies for healthy transitions in coping with loss.

10544108 Developing the Gerontology Professional - Credits: 3
Examine the various roles of the aging services professional and the contexts in which they work. Apply relationship building, communication, ethical standards, self-care planning and practices, documentation, and other related skills to case studies and real life situations. Function as an interdisciplinary team member addressing the complex needs of aging adults.

10544109 Gerontology Fieldwork 2 - Credits: 2
Refine and expand skills, acquired in Gerontology Fieldwork 1, through continued on-the-job training. In addition to the regular classroom hours, fieldwork in a community-based setting working with older adults is required. Students must complete or have on file current, valid Background Information Disclosure (BID) and Caregiver Background Check (annual Wisconsin and Minnesota) forms, as part of this course. Prerequisite: 10544103 Gerontology Fieldwork 1.

10544110 Programs of Aging Services - Credits: 3
Explore the wide spectrum of programs and services available to older adults that address a variety of physical, mental, emotional, social, financial, legal, spiritual, and recreational needs. Examine social policy as it relates to aging and available federal funding for the aging consumer including community resources, eligibility criteria, and how to access and coordinate services. Additional topics include supplementing social networking and enhancing mental health functioning.

10544111 Legal and Financial Issues of Aging - Credits: 3
Analyze legal and financial concepts and structures including Power of Attorney for health care/finance, guardianships, trusts, reallocation of assets, spending down, Medicare/Medicaid benefits, supplemental insurance, Social Security, elder abuse/ neglect, financial exploitation, and relevant governmental policies. Apply knowledge through advocacy to benefit aging adults on local, state and federal levels.

10575100 CBRF Caregiver Fundamentals - Credits: 2
In this credit-based course, students will obtain the knowledge and skills required to become Community-Based Residential Facility (CBRF) caregivers. Coursework will include the following training modules: DHS 83.20 (2) (b) CBRF Fire Safety, DHS 83.20 (2) (d) CBRF Medication Administration and Management, DHS 83.20 (2) (a) CBRF Standard Precautions, DHS 83.20 (2) (c) CBRF First Aid and Choking, DHS 83.21 (1) CBRF Resident’s Rights, and DHS 83.21 (3) CBRF Challenging Behaviors. Upon successful completion of this course, students are added to the Wisconsin CBRF Employee Registry and will receive the Red Cross CBRF First Aid and Choking certification card.

Graduate Employment Information
(WITC Graduate Survey Responses 2012-2013; for most recent data, go to witc.edu)
The information below is based on graduates’ responses from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and does not include WITC graduates as this is a new program at WITC.

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<th>Number of graduates</th>
<th>Number employed</th>
<th>% employed in WITC district</th>
<th>Range of yearly salary</th>
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<table>
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<th>Number of responses</th>
<th>Percent employed</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number available for employment</th>
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800.243.9482  witc.edu  2014-2015