
THE CLINICAL EXPERIENCE IN THE GERIATRIC CARE MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The University of Florida recognizes the important contributions that a clinical field experience makes to the total educational program. The final requirement for the Graduate level certificate is the supervised clinical experience. This hands-on, clinical experience is designed to allow the student to put into practice the skills and knowledge gained from the 5 core on-line courses. Students are required to complete 50 hours of clinical experience directly involved in the following activities:

- Face to face interviewing (10 hours)
- Client assessment (10 hours)
- Care planning (10 hours)
- Problem solving, advocacy or business planning (10 hours)
- Information and referral of formal and informal services (10 hours)

Field placement sites provide the student with an understanding of professional roles, knowledge, functions, values, and methods of care management intervention and an appreciation of ethical, legal and spiritual issues. It is the responsibility of each student to identify a clinical site and an appropriate preceptor willing to provide guidance during and an evaluation upon completion of the clinical experience. Some examples of organizations' appropriate for completion of the clinical include:

- Private Practice Geriatric Care Management Businesses
www.findacaremanager.org
- Area Agency on Aging
- Geriatric Medicine Centers
- Nursing Homes & Assisted Living Facilities
- Rehabilitation Facilities

You may enroll in your clinical experience beginning the semester in which you are registered for your last course in the program. You may also choose to do the clinical after you've completed all of your coursework. You must register for and begin your clinical experience as soon as you have completed all of the five graduate courses.

Upon receipt of the students clinical write up the University of Florida will send the identified preceptor an evaluation form to request input on student performance during the clinical experience. The clinical experience must be completed within 6 months of initial registration

Steps in Completing the Clinical Experience

The following is a list of steps in getting started and completion of the clinical experience:

1. Select an appropriate clinical experience site and secure contact information (including an e-mail address) for the site preceptor.
2. Pay for the clinical experience and register your proposed site and site preceptor.
3. Complete 50 hours of clinical experience directly involved in carrying out the following activities:
 - Face to face interviewing (10 hours)
 - Client assessment (10 hours)
 - Care planning (10 hours)
 - Problem solving, advocacy or business planning (10 hours)
 - Information and referral of formal and informal services (10 hours)
4. Upon completion of the 50 required clinical hours each participant will write a and submit (via e-mail to the course instructor) a five page summary which describes:
 - the site with which they completed their clinical experience; (1 Page)
 - the role they played in carrying out the required activities; (2 Pages)
 - how the GCM program prepared them to carry out the activities described above. (2 Pages)
5. Submit a time log for the 50 required hours (described above) to the program director via e-mail.
6. Once your time log and five page summary have been reviewed the program director will then send you a confirmation that you have completed the requirements and any necessary feedback.