I. Course description:
This 1 credit course addresses methods and challenges of aging research in special settings, such as long term care, life care, rehabilitation, home care, day care, hospice, emergency room, hospital and intensive care. Older adults are frequent users of unique health and community settings. They often have associated health and psychosocial characteristics that influence research design and implementation. Students will develop an awareness of factors to be addressed when conducting research in these settings. The course will involve lectures, panel discussions and site visits. Lectures and classroom discussions will be supplemented with readings focused on aging research performed in special settings. Real-world application of knowledge will be facilitated through required visits by each student to any two of more than 10 available options for settings caring for older adults. Students will integrate information provided over the course of the semester by writing two site visit reports. This course is required for completion of the aging concentration in the Clinical Research Training Program.

II. Course objectives:
1. Describe types of special settings in which research can be conducted with older adults and characterize the likely participants, appropriate types of research questions and operational issues for each.
2. Develop insight into how decisions are made about research in special settings.

III. Course requirements:
Completion of Introduction to Patient Oriented Research in Aging or permission of instructor

IV. Location:
Room 305 B Parkvale Building

V. Course credits and contact hours:
1 credit; 16 contact hours; 1 session/week for 4 weeks (2.5 hours per session, plus 6 hours for two site visits)

VI. Grading:
Letter grade, based on assignments:
Class participation 20%
Site visit reports (2) 60%
Oral Presentation 20%
VII. Readings: see each session

VIII. Teaching methodology: Lectures and classroom discussions will be supplemented with readings about aging research in special settings. Researchers who are currently conducting research in these settings will present their work for discussion. Students will visit two different special settings and will submit a written report for each using the Site Visit Format Guidelines. Students will present their findings in an oral report to the class.

IX. Major Assignments
   1. Written commentary based on visits to two special settings using the attached format. Each commentary should be at least 3 double spaced typed pages. They are due by class 4.
   2. Oral presentation describing your findings from the written commentaries. Each commentary forms the basis of a 10 minute presentation and discussion of your findings and recommendations. Presentations will be made at class 4.

Session 1 Orientation, Long term care: nursing home, assisted living, life care, day care
Date: 2/6/06 500-730 pm

Topics:
1. The demographics, health concerns, functional status and psychosocial status of older adults in long term care settings.
2. Research topics relevant to long term care
3. Opportunities and challenges of research in long term care
4. Key decision makers in long term care
5. HIPAA compliance and consent issues

Session Objectives:
1. Be familiar with the characteristics of older adults in long term care settings
2. Understand the regulatory and economic environment of each setting
3. Examine types of research questions that can be addressed in these settings
4. Understand the unique benefits and challenges of performing research in these settings, including use of information systems, working with vulnerable populations, access to population pools and/or space, and administrative priorities.
5. Understand the administrative structure and decision making processes related to research in long term care settings.
6. Be familiar with HIPAA and consent issues in these settings

Panel: Nace, Castle, VanSwearingen

Class Discussion with Panel:
1. Describe the types of research questions you have pursued in these settings.
2. Describe the negotiations you were involved in to obtain permission to carry out your research.
3. Consider what worked well and what difficulties you faced in your research.
4. Describe the way you managed HIPAA and consent issues
5. What kind of secondary data sources did you use?

**Readings:**

**Required**

Sangl J Saliba D Gifford DR Hittle DF Challenges in Measuring Nursing Home and Home Health Quality Medical Care 43: Supp 124-132 2005

Wendler D Prasad K Core Safeguards for Clinical Research with Adults who are Unable to Consent Ann Int Med 135:514-523, 2001

**Optional**

Carpenter I Gladman JRF Parker SG Potter J Clinical and research challenges of intermediate care Age and Ageing 2002 31:97-100

Freret N Ricci L Murphy S Recruiting and screening older transitional to frail adults in congregate living facilities Applied Nursing Research 2003 16:118-125


Mor V Improving the Quality of long-term care with better information Milbank Q 83:333-364 2005


**Assignment**
Review the list of site visit opportunities and begin to identify your preferred settings for your visits. Contact site sponsors to arrange visits.
Session 2 Acute Care: Hospital, Emergency room, intensive care

Date 2/13/06 5-7:30 pm

Topics:
1. The demographics, health concerns, functional status and psychosocial status of older adults in acute care settings.
2. Research topics relevant to acute care
3. Opportunities and challenges of research in acute care
4. Key decision makers in acute care
5. HIPAA and consent issues in acute care

Session Objectives:
1. Be familiar with the characteristics of older adults in acute care settings
2. Examine types of research questions that can be addressed in these settings
3. Understand the unique benefits and challenges of performing research in these settings, including use of information systems, working with vulnerable populations, access to population pools and/or space, and administrative priorities.
4. Understand the administrative structure and decision making processes related to research in acute care
5. Be familiar with HIPAA and consent issues in these settings

Panel: Barnato, Angus, Milbrandt, Yealy

Class Discussion:
1. Describe the types of research questions you have pursued in these settings.
2. Describe the negotiations you were involved in to obtain permission to carry out your research.
3. Consider what worked well and what difficulties you faced in your research.
4. Describe the way you managed HIPAA and consent issues

Readings:
Required


Optional
Chelluri L, Grenvik A, Silverman M. Intensive care for critically ill elderly: mortality, costs, and


Assignment

Notify instructor of your planned site visits. Discuss any problems or concerns with the instructor

Session 3 Rehabilitation, hospice

Date 2/20/06 5-730 pm

Topics:
1. The demographics, health concerns, functional status and psychosocial status of older adults in rehabilitation and hospice settings.
2. Research topics relevant to these settings
3. Opportunities and challenges of research in these settings
4. Key decision makers in these settings
5. HIPAA compliance and consent issues

Session Objectives:
1. Be familiar with the characteristics of older adults in rehabilitation and hospice settings
2. Examine types of research questions that can be addressed in these settings
3. Understand the unique benefits and challenges of performing research in these settings, including use of information systems, working with vulnerable populations, access to population pools and/or space, and administrative priorities.
4. Understand the administrative structure and decision making processes related to research in these settings
5. Be familiar with HIPAA and consent issues in these settings

Panel: Munin Lenze Jaffe

Class Discussion:
1. Describe the types of research questions you have pursued in these settings.
2. Describe the negotiations you were involved in to obtain permission to carry out your research.
3. Consider what worked well and what difficulties you faced in your research.
4. Describe the way you managed HIPAA and consent issues
Readings:

Required


Optional


Dobratz MC. Issues and dilemmas in conducting research with vulnerable home hospice participants J Nursing Scholarship 2003 35:371-376

Blackmer J. The unique ethical challenges of conducting research in the rehabilitation medicine population BMC Medical Ethics 2003 4:2

Assignment
You should be completing your visits and preparing your visit reports for presentation next week. Discuss any concerns or problems with the instructor

Session 4
Date 2/27 5-730 pm

Student Presentations
Each site visit presentation will be 10 minutes, with two presentations per student. Presentations will be grouped by type of site and will be followed by a class discussion of key insights into work in this type of setting.