

Moorpark College Sabbatical leave Proposal

Gerontological Nursing Certification

Submitted by Olga Myshina

Nursing and Health Sciences Faculty

November 2024

Instructor's Sabbatical Leave Status

Hire date: August 2011

Previous sabbaticals: none

Proposed sabbatical: 1 semester = Spring 2026

Background of Sabbatical Project

According to United States Census Bureau, number of the Americans ages 65 and over is projected to increase from 58 million in 2022 to 82 million in 2050. That makes 47% of geriatric population in the country ([US Census Bureau, 2023](#)). This change is not unique to US or other developed countries. According to World Health Organization, by 2025 the world's population of people 60 years and older will double, making it 2.1 billion ([WHO, 2024](#)). While the population ages, the demand for the healthcare professionals trained to care for aging population, also known as geriatric, increases. Among those healthcare professionals in need are geriatric nurses.

While geriatric nurses hold standard Registered Nurse (RN) license, their roles and duties go beyond traditional nursing care. They are trained to customize their care for the needs of geriatric population. As other nursing specialties, several organizations offer certifications, including Gerontological Nursing Certifications, that enhance expertise in this field.

Instructor's Background as It Relates to the Project and Instructor's Role at Moorpark College

I am a tenured Nursing Science and Health Sciences Faculty at Moorpark College (MC). Since starting at MC in 2011, I have been teaching geriatric clinical courses – lab courses that specialize in care for elderly in the clinical setting. I have been an RN for over 20 years. While I transitioned into teaching path of the profession, I continue working on per-diem schedule in one of the acute care facilities in the community. My clinical experience includes medical-surgical and telemetry nursing. However, several years ago the hospital unit where I work became Acute Care of Elderly (ACE) designated unit. This designation was the result of hard work and great achievement for the organization and its staff. The unit follows the best practices to meet the needs of hospitalized geriatric population. My passion for geriatric nursing, as well as practicing

on ACE unit, makes me effective instructor in geriatric clinical nursing courses. However, I believe that obtaining Geriatric Nursing Certification (GERO-BC) would enhance my knowledge and clinical skills even further.

Purpose and Proposed Objectives

Goal of my project is to enhance my knowledge in geriatric nursing that will aid me in creating learning environment that promotes comprehensive understanding of nursing care of geriatric population.

Objective 1: Complete gerontological certification review course at Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing (HIGN) at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing.

Objective 2: Review the literature provided by American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) in Gerontological Nursing reference list.

Objective 3: Pass GERO-BC - Gerontological Nursing Certification exam.

Proposed Timeline, Activities, and Logistics of Project

January – February 2026. I will enroll in Gerontological Certification Review Course by HIGN at NYU Meyers College of Nursing. It provides a comprehensive review of the care of older adults, is organized to reflect the specific sections of the exam, and fulfills one of the requirements - 30 Nursing Continuing Professional Development Contact Hours (CEUs) - in order to apply for the certification.

Individuals who complete this series will be able to:

1. Review foundational knowledge of geriatric nursing care.
2. Recognize various conditions that present when caring for older adults.
3. Summarize the non-clinical aspects of care, including legal and ethical issues, health policy and health promotion.
4. Recognize the unique needs of special populations receiving geriatric care.

The content covers the following topics:

- Overview: Gerontological Nursing Certification Review Course
- Foundations of Practice for Gerontological Nursing
- Health Promotion and Assessment and Age-Related Changes
- Geriatric Syndromes
- Psychological Issues: The Three D's: Depression, Dementia and Delirium
- Palliative Care
- Pain
- Common Cardiovascular Health Conditions
- Common Health Conditions-Part 1

- Common Health Conditions-Part 2
- Legal and Ethical Issues
- Healthcare Policy
- Special Populations of Older Adults ([HIGN, 2024](#))

During the same time, I will also apply for the professional development funds to cover the cost of the course (\$299).

March – April 2026. I will review as many as possible references from the literature provided by ANCC in Gerontological Nursing reference list.

1. Alligood MR. Nursing Theorists and Their Work. 9th ed. St Louis, MO: Elsevier; 2018.
2. American Nurses Association. Gerontological Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice. 2nd ed. Silver Spring, MD: American Nurses Association; 2019.
3. American Nurses Association. Guide to the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements: Development, Interpretation, and Application. 2nd ed. Silver Spring, MD: Nursesbooks.org; 2015.
4. Bastable SB, ed. Nurse as Educator: Principles of Teaching and Learning for Nursing Practice. 5th ed. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning; 2019.
5. Bickley LS. Bates' Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking. 12th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2017.
6. Edelman CL, Kudzma EC, Mandle CL. Health Promotion Throughout the Life Span. 9th ed. St Louis, MO: Elsevier; 2018.
7. Eliopoulos C. Gerontological Nursing. 9th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2018.
8. Fulmer T, Chernof B. Handbook of Geriatric Assessment. 5th ed. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning; 2019.
9. Huber DL. Leadership and Nursing Care Management. 6th ed. St. Louis, MO: Elsevier; 2018.
10. Ignatavicius DD, Workman ML, Rebar CF. Medical-Surgical Nursing: Concepts

for Interprofessional Collaborative Care. 9th ed. St. Louis, MO: Elsevier; 2018.

11. Meiner SE, Yeager JJ. Gerontologic Nursing. 6th ed. St Louis, MO: Elsevier; 2019.

12. Polit DF, Beck CT. Essentials of Nursing Research: Appraising Evidence for Nursing Practice. 9th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2018.

13. Steffens DC, Blazer DG, Thakur ME. The American Psychiatric Publishing Textbook of Geriatric Psychiatry. 5th ed. Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Publishing; 2015.

14. Tabloski PA. Gerontological Nursing. 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education; 2019.

15. Touhy TA, Jett KF. Ebersole and Hess' Toward Healthy Aging: Human Needs and Nursing Response. 9th ed. St Louis, MO: Elsevier; 2016.

16. US Preventive Services Task Force. The Guide to Clinical Preventive Services 2014: Recommendations of the US Preventive Services Task Force. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2014.

[\(ANCC, 2018\)](#)

During the same time, I will apply for GERO-BC exam and obtain the required documentation to be eligible to take this exam.

May 2026. I will take and pass Gerontological Nursing Certification exam. GERO-BC is offered by American Nurses Credentialing Center. The cost for the exam \$395. After completion of the exam, I will work on developing case studies and clinical scenarios that could be utilized in the clinical setting as well as classroom environment, for the group discussions and individual learning activities.

Value of Sabbatical Project to Moorpark College Nursing Students

Integrating gained knowledge in the area of geriatric nursing into my teaching practice will benefit nursing students who take geriatric nursing course as part of their required curriculum within the nursing program. I will continue looking into developing the learning activities and adopting already developed activities for geriatric population into my nursing courses. The activities will be aligned with the best practices and the standards of care in this field.

Value of Sabbatical Project to the Instructor's Professional Competence

I am looking forward to achieve GERO-BC. While I have been teaching geriatric nursing care clinical course and practicing nursing on ACE unit for several years, getting more in-depth knowledge and obtaining this specialty certification will strengthen me as an instructor and practitioner. I serve as a content expert in geriatric nursing within my program. Obtaining GERO-BC will expand my expertise. I will also make myself available to be a theory instructor for geriatric nursing in case if program has this need.

Value of Sabbatical Project to Moorpark College and VCCCD

Moorpark College Nursing Program is California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) approved and nationally accredited by Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Both organizations look for the higher achievements among the teaching faculty and evidence of knowledge of the content experts. Considering that our program has very limited number of full-time faculty (nine to be exact), having a faculty that could step into teaching an additional theory course could be beneficial.

I thank the sabbatical committee for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

O. Myshina

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