Gerontology Competencies

1. Respect and promote older adult clients’ right to dignity and self-determination.

2. Relate theory to and build competence in addressing the diversity (ethnicity, race, class, sexual orientation, and family structure) among older adults and their families.

3. Conduct comprehensive bio-psycho-social-spiritual assessments of older adults and their social networks.

4. Administer and interpret standardized assessment and diagnostic tools appropriate for use with OAs and their caregivers.

5. Develop clear, timely, and appropriate service plans with measurable objectives for older adults.

6. Enhance the coping capacities of OAs and their caregivers through individual, family and group psychosocial interventions including therapy, case management, and psychoeducational strategies.

7. Adapt organizational policies, procedures, and resources to facilitate the provision of services to diverse older adults and their family caregivers.

8. Identify and develop strategies to address service gaps, fragmentation, discrimination, and barriers that impact older persons.

9. Evaluate the effectiveness of practice and programs to achieve intended outcomes for OAs and their caregivers.

10. Develop an effective professional self who can effectively utilize supervision, form social network relationships in the gerontology community, and contribute to the changing the service environment for OAs and the professions who work with them.