

Gerontological Nursing Honors Program Review 2011-19

The Gerontological Nursing Honors Program (GNHP) recognized undergraduates who were interested in the care of older adults and their families, and provided advanced specialty content, mentoring, and support to develop the skills to care for our growing aging population. The required thesis also provided opportunities for students to interact with and be inspired by researchers, advanced practice nurses, and doctoral students, making it an important pipeline to our Masters, D.N.P. and Ph.D. programs.

Program History. In 2011, the SON received a \$250,000 grant from The Hearst Foundations and OCF for SON scholarships for students with an interest in the care of older adults.

\$ 80,000 funded GNHP scholarships

\$170,000 funded Ph.D. student scholarships

Faculty Support. With the support of Dean Bakewell-Sachs, SON faculty and Hartford Center staff developed, taught, and managed the GNHP and the grant.

In addition, students were assigned to a volunteer faculty mentor from their campus or in the online program. Each mentor had geriatric expertise and/or research experience.

Twenty-seven faculty members mentored students in the GNHP. They represented faculty from all campuses and UG programs (see chart on p 2).

Students.

Graduation by campus/program:

Location	Grads
Ashland	6
K. Falls	4
La Grande	4
Monmouth	7
Portland*	12
Virtual	4
Total	37

The honors seminar prepared students to complete an honors thesis on a geriatric topic of their choice, apply geriatric content to their clinical experiences, learn about research and advanced practice, and receive critique of scholarly work in process. The students used the PICO format to develop a clinical question related to care of older adults, locate and critique current research and other evidence-based practice resources relevant to their question, and make practice and research recommendations.

*Six of the twelve Portland graduates were in the ABS program.

Alumni. In October 2018, we reached out to GNHP graduates. At that time there were 31 graduates and we connected with 13. Of the Class of 2014, our first cohort of graduates, one student had an MNE and another anticipates completing hers in 2019 (both are on OHSU SON faculty). Another has her FNP. Others from subsequent cohorts are practicing in adult oncology, ED, cardiovascular ICU, and hospice. One completed a fellowship through the OHSU/VA for evidence-based practice and 3 are either in or considering a DNP program.

Challenges. The faculty member who originally wrote the grant left OHSU shortly after it was funded. The grant funds were exclusively allocated to provide students with scholarships, i.e., there was no funding for faculty FTE or administrative support. The program had 4 directors over 8 years. We are grateful to Gail Wolf and Darcy Mize who stepped up to teach the final year of the GNHP.

Of the 53 students admitted to the GNHP, 16 either withdrew (12) or were dismissed (4).

Of the 6 cohorts, most students followed the two-year design of the program, but some students took the modules during the summer or concurrently with the Honors Seminar, e.g., ABS students. This created extra workload for the faculty of record.

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Campus/Program	GNHP Faculty Mentor
Ashland	Glenise McKenzie
Ashland	Teri Copley
Klamath Falls	Darcy Mize
Klamath Falls	Marilyn Gran-Moravec
LaGrande	Carla Hagen
LaGrande	Danita Ewing
LaGrande	Stephanie Shaul
Monmouth	Angela Docherty
Monmouth	Judy Borgen
Monmouth	Katie O'Rourke
Monmouth	KellyAnn Garthe
Monmouth	Patti Warkentin
Monmouth	Rana Halabi Najjar
Monmouth	Sheryl Combs
Monmouth	Stella Heryford
Portland	Ben Schultze
Portland	Carla Pentecost
Portland	Hiroko Kiyoshi-Teo
Portland	Jane Hagen
Portland	Lois Miller
Portland	Pat Berry
Portland	Rose Milano
Portland	Ruth Tadesse
RNBS	Belinda Brooks
RNBS/K Falls	Gail Wolf
RNBS/K Falls	Michelle Hall
RNBS/Portland	Julie Cartwright

GNHP student comments

This past year working with the GNHP was really one of my most special memories from nursing school. ...It felt less like schoolwork and more like a unique collaboration with like-minded individuals

The gerontology program has been so useful to my work at the VA as most of the patients are older adults. It was also useful in passing NCLEX because a lot of my questions were about dementia!

Throughout the GNHP, my knowledge of the health challenges faced by older adults and my desire to improve nursing care of this population have deepened. Thanks to my added studies of gerontological nursing, I look forward to a future in which I can participate in nursing practice that better recognizes and serves the needs of older adults.

The program is providing me with a chance to specialize in a field that would otherwise be difficult to focus on during the normal course of study in nursing school.

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