**FOOTHILL COLLEGE**

**Credit Program Narrative**

**Geriatric Health Care Technician Program**

**Certificate of Achievement**

**Item 1. Program Goals and Objective**

The goal of this program is to provide students with basic skills and knowledge leading to employment in

Geriatric Health Care. Some of these courses will also meet proposed California State licensing requirements (AB 1570)for staff members of residential care facilities of the elderly who assist residents. In addition, this program will provide requisite foundation for students who wish to pursue an AA/AS degree at Foothill or transfer to a four year college or university. This program will be “housed” at the new FHDA Educational Center in order to collaborate with Mission College and San Jose City College. It is hoped that the program will begin in 2016.

**Item 2. Catalog Description**

The Geriatric Health Care program consists of four core courses covering Biological Aging/Physiology of Aging/Health Aspects of Aging, Geriatrics for Health Care Professionals, Communication Skills for Interpersonal Relations with the Elderly, and Field Practicum. There will also be smaller 0.5 unit classes that address topics such as Nutrition, Pharmacology, Mental Health, Death and Dying, and Elder Abuse.

**Item 3. List of Courses**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Requirement** | **Course #** | **Title** | **Units** | **CSU-GE** | **IGETC** | **Sequence** |
| Required Core  (13 units)  Electives  (9 units) | HLTH 60  HLTH 70  HLTH 75  COMM 60  HLTH  71A- L | Health & Aging  Health & Geriatrics for Health Care Professionals  Work Experience in Geriatric Health Care  Interpersonal Communication Skills with the Elderly  (Being written by Fine Arts Division Faculty  Preston Ni)  Healthy Aging & Ethnic Diversity  Healthy Aging & Nutrition  Medical World of the Elderly: Pharmacology  Mental Health & Aging  Alzheimer’s Workshop  End Stage Life Care  Family Dynamics  Fitness for Healthy Aging  Body Mechanics & Safety  Policy Issues for Older Adults  Elder Abuse | 4  4      4    5    0.5  each |  |  | Yr 1, Fall  Yr 1, Winter  Yr 1, Winter  Yr 1, Spring  Yr 1, Winter/Spring |

**TOTAL UNITS 22 units**

**Proposed Sequence(TBD)**

Year 1, Fall = 4 units

Year 1, Winter = 6-18 units

Year 1, Spring = 6-18 units

**Item 4. Enrollment and Completer Projections**

Each core course will have approximately 25 -50 students. The number of projected completers who will earn the certificate of achievement in the first year is 30 graduates. The elective courses can accommodate 80 students. A workshop is scheduled on June 21 in coordination with Cynthia Harrison (Mission College and Deputy Sector Navigator for Workforce) to demonstrate that the enrollment is there.

**Item 5. Labor Market Information**

Reports from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predict an increase in the personal and home care aides job category, forecasting this category to be the second fastest-growing job group in the nation over the next decade. But the rapid growth in this job group may not be fast enough. Recent research indicates that demand for these jobs will outpace supply in a big way.

"This could become a national crisis issue," said Paul Hogan, Home Instead Senior Care® network Co-Founder and CEO. "At our organization alone the number of CAREGiversSM nationally is about 60,000. To keep pace with this projected demand, our organization will have to double its care force in just three years, according to our research."

Nationwide, the personal and home care aides classification is expected to grow by more than 50% increasing from 767,000 to a projected 1.15 million jobs. The government identifies personal and home care aides as professionals who help the elderly, disabled, ill and mentally disabled live in their own homes or in residential care facilities instead of in health facilities. The growing number of seniors in the U.S. as well as locally is expected to help fuel this job demand. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population age 65 and older is projected to double by 2050. "We've certainly seen the needs of seniors drive the demand for our services, which in turn creates more caregiving jobs," said Hogan. National research conducted by Home Instead Senior Care reveals that 86 percent of seniors want to continue living in their homes as they age. This surge in seniors at home will help fuel the demand for these new positions as well.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Economist Colleen Teixeira Moffat, who studies the occupation of personal and home care aides, said increasing health-care costs partly explain this growing demand. "It's a lot more cost-effective to leave a hospital sooner when all a senior might need is assistance with daily activities," she said. "A visiting nurse, home health aide, and personal and home care aide all will be cheaper than a stay in a residential care facility," she said.

Currently in today’s Palo Alto Post, there are seven caregiver agencies with ads for workers in this field. Agencies include Starlight Caregivers, Home Care Assistance, In-Home-Care Staffing, MagisCare among others.  
In addition, these students will find employment in hospice care facilities, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and private residences.

The program fulfills a need expressed to me by the Alzheimers Association (Dr. Elizabeth Edgerley President of Mountain View Chapter), Avenidas of Palo Alto and Mountain View(Paula Watson, Manager, Avenidas Care Partners), HomeCare Assistance of Palo Alto(Kathy Johnson, Director), Geriatric Heath Education Center at Stanford University (Dolores Thompson, Chair) among others who would be part of our advisory board

**Item 6. Place of Program in Curriculum/Similar Programs**

There are currently no similar programs at Foothill College. The only similar program in Northern California is at American River College.