Course Department, Number & Title: FCH 850, Rural Geriatrics

Course credit or length: 2 – 4 Weeks

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Course coordinator and contact information: Glenna Michael, 304.691.1191, michael@marshall.edu

LOCATION: Long Term Care facilities, community health centers, and other rural community-based sites. The experience will generally be completed in Cabell, Wayne and Lincoln Counties, but arrangements can be made in other rural counties at the student's request.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The student will have the opportunity to improve knowledge, skills, and experience in caring for rural elders. This course will involve clinical experiences in diverse environments such as rural long term care facilities, rural medical clinics and offices, patient’s homes, and rural agencies on aging. There will be a didactic component of directed readings and discussion with faculty.

COURSE GOAL: To expose the student to the diverse nature of problems routinely encountered in geriatric medicine. Students will refine skills used in assessing and managing these patients in a variety of settings. Students will become aware of the full spectrum of issues relating to elderly population and to learn some of the techniques to address elderly care.

COURSE GRADE MODE: This is an Pass/Fail course

Institutional Objective
Patient Care - Students must demonstrate the ability to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.

Course Objective
The student will perform and properly document an appropriate history and physical examinations on geriatric patients.

Outcome Measure
The student will demonstrate to the faculty ability to perform and properly document at least one patient encounter from different settings (long-term care patients, rural medical clinics, other ambulatory offices, home visits, etc.). One patient encounter will also be randomly selected by the faculty member.

Course Objective
The student must be able to develop an appropriate differential diagnosis and develop an initial management plan for common geriatric medical problems.
**Outcome Measure**
The student will demonstrate to the faculty ability to develop an appropriate differential diagnosis and develop an initial management plan for at least five of the following common geriatric medical problems to be selected by the preceptor:

- Accidental hypothermia
- Basal cell carcinoma
- Chronic lymphocytic leukemia
- Degenerative osteoarthritis
- Dementia
- Depression
- Diabetes mellitus
- Diabetic hyperosomolar nonketotic coma
- Falls
- Foot disorders interfering with mobility
- GI bleeding
- Hearing and vision abnormalities
- Heart failure
- Herpes zoster
- Hip fracture
- Hypothyroidism
- Iron deficiency anemia
- Monoclonal gammopathies
- Normal-pressure hydrocephalus
- Oral disorders interfering with eating
- Osteoporosis
- Parkinsonism
- Polymyalgia rheumatica
- Pressure ulcers
- Prostate cancer
- Stroke
- Temporal arteritis (giant cell arteritis)
- Urinary incontinence
- Vitamin B12 deficiency

**Course Objective**
The student must be able to assess geriatric patients for periodic health needs and immunizations.

**Outcome Measure**
The student will demonstrate to the faculty a competent assessment of geriatric patients for periodic health needs, including assessment of diet and exercise and immunizations.

**Institutional Objective**

**Medical Knowledge:** Students must demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological and social-behavioral sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care.
**Course Objective**
The student will recognize presentations of common illnesses in geriatric patients and be able to formally present them in an efficient and complete manner.

**Outcome Measure**
The student will recognize presentations of common illnesses in geriatric patients and present those to faculty in an efficient and complete manner. Common illnesses include but not limited to, cancers, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, osteoporosis, herpes zoster, balance problems, Alzheimer's disease, stroke, mental disorders and pulmonary conditions.

**Institutional Objective**

**Practice-based Learning and Improvement** - Students must demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate their care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on constant self-evaluation and life-long learning.

**Course Objective**
The student will provide continuing care (assessment and management) and follow-up on common medical problems for geriatric patients.

**Outcome Measure**
The student will demonstrate to faculty the ability to provide assessment, management and follow-up on common outpatient medical problems listed above for a minimum of five geriatric patients in various long-term care facilities rural medical clinics and other ambulatory offices, and patient’s homes.

**Course Objective**
The student will interpret signs and symptoms and clinical studies in assessing geriatric patients.

**Outcome Measure**
The student will demonstrate proficiency to faculty in the interpretation of signs and symptoms and clinical studies in assessing geriatric patients seen in various long-term care facilities, rural medical clinics and other ambulatory offices, and patient’s homes.

**Institutional Objective**

**Interpersonal and Communication Skills** - Students must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and health professionals.

**Course Objective**
The student will communicate effectively with physicians and other health care providers, patients and their families and any appropriate care-givers.

**Outcome Measure**
The faculty will observe the student communicating effectively.

**Institutional Objective**

**Professionalism**- Students must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles.
**Course Objective**
The student will recognize and address unique ethical issues associated with geriatric care.

**Outcome Measure**
The student will demonstrate to faculty a basic recognition and ability to address unique ethical issues associated with acute and longitudinal care of geriatric patients, including end-of-life care issues.

**Institutional Objective**

**Systems-based Practice** - Students will be able to recognize and better understand the role of other health care professionals in the overall care of the patient.

**Course Objective**
The student will understand some of the criteria for admission for common serious problems in geriatric patients.

**Outcome Measure**
The faculty will observe the student’s ability to understand some of the basic criteria for admission for common serious problems in geriatric patients. Common serious problems include, but are not limited to chest pain, congestive heart failure, diabetic ketoacidosis, hypertension, jaundice, lower gastrointestinal bleeding, meningitis, myocardial infarction, falls, pneumonia, seizures, trauma, upper gastrointestinal bleeding, and urinary tract infection.

**Course Objective**
The student will understand the role of a health care team in providing quality health care to elderly populations and how to utilize community resources for assisting the geriatric patient.

**Outcome Measure**
The student will work within a health care team to coordinate health care for the elderly. The student shall demonstrate to the faculty a basic knowledge of the understanding of the roles of the physician, occupational therapist, speech therapist, dieticians, clinical psychologist, social worker, physical therapist and others in the care of the geriatric patient. The student shall also list the community resources available to better meet the geriatric patient health care needs.

**BASIC SCIENCE OBJECTIVE**

**Basic Science Objective**
The student will develop and refine their abilities to apply an understanding of epidemiology, study design, pathophysiology, anatomy, and clinical pharmacology, in the assessment of geriatric patients.

**Outcome Measure**
The faculty will assess the student’s knowledge and ability.

**Self-Directed Learning**
As a medical student, you are encouraged to use any unstructured time as a time to read about your patients, research questions that arise during the day, prepare for case conferences, and prepare for student-faculty rounds. Preceptors have been specifically asked to look for evidence that you have read articles and books between clinic sessions. Use this time to build your knowledge of medicine and learn from your patients.
ASSESSMENT METHODS

Mid Point Evaluation
In accordance with LCME standard ED-30, the Course Director will evaluate student performance at mid-point to review the student’s professional, clinical and academic performance up to that point. The formative evaluation must be reviewed with the student and the student will have an opportunity to discuss with the Course Director. The form must be signed by the student and returned to the Course Director. The Course Director shall then forward a copy of the form to the Office of Academic Affairs. The form will NOT however be included in the student’s official academic record. For two week electives, oral feedback shall be provided at the end of the first week.

Preceptor Evaluation- 100%
The preceptors’ evaluation will be based, but not limited to, the following factors:
- Clinic Attendance and participation in assigned activities
- Conference/ Athletic event attendance
- Demonstration of knowledge and skills outline in course objectives
- Maturity and Professionalism
- Oral Case presentation/patient workup

MUJCESOM Policies: All medical students taking this course will comply with School of Medicine policies given at http://musom.marshall.edu/students/policies. Individual policies can be found at the following websites:

Student Infectious Material Exposure:
http://musom.marshall.edu/ups/postexposure.asp

MS-IV Attendance:
https://musom.marshall.edu/students/documents/policies/Yr4attendance.pdf

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Academic Standards Policy:
https://musom.marshall.edu/students/documents/Policies/ASC-FINAL-POLICY.pdf

Policy for Students with Disabilities:
https://musom.marshall.edu/students/documents/Guidelines.pdf

University Computing Services’ Acceptable Use Policy:
http://www.marshall.edu/ucs/CS/acceptuse.asp

Affirmative Action Policy:
pp. 16-17
http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/Graduate/S2008/gr_sp08.pdf

Inclement Weather Policy:
Notification of delays and cancellations of classes are posted on the Medical Education Home Page when Marshall University Main Campus is not in session
https://musom.marshall.edu/weather

**Required Reading/Other Material:**
As assigned and provided by the Course Director or preceptor.