

The GREAT GEC

The Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education, and Training Center (GREAT GEC) located within Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine is one of a national network of 46 Geriatric Education Centers in the United States.

The mission of the GREAT GEC is to provide interprofessional programs to maintain and improve the health of ethnically and culturally diverse older adults from underserved areas across Florida and Puerto Rico, educating and training health professionals in health promotion and prevention, emphasizing undergraduate and graduate professional education, and serving the needs of the underserved with innovative teaching and clinical experiences.

The GREAT GEC aims to increase the number of trained interprofessional geriatric professionals in the workforce. Florida is the fourth most populous state in the country (2009 data). It ranks as number one in the percentage of its residents 60 years and older (28 percent), 38 percent of whom represent ethnic minorities. This number is expected to grow to 35 percent of the state's population in 2030.

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Project PEARL

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Nova Southeastern University GREAT GEC

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Notice of Accreditation

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097; telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

Nondiscrimination Statement

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities gene rally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.



PROJECT PEARL

**The Interprofessional
Alzheimer's Healthcare
Approach:
Working in a shifting
healthcare delivery system**

**Available online for
CE/CME credit!**





Project PEARL is:

Professional Education for Alzheimer's Resources and Leadership

The Professional Education for Alzheimer's Resources and Leadership (PEARL) Project provides healthcare professionals with effective, evidenced-based training to recognize the early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) and provide appropriate interventions as needed. Project PEARL will train the interprofessional healthcare team to deliver individualized, patient-centered care and to develop an awareness for the emotional burden family members and care partners endure when caring for persons with ADRD.

Course Outline

Module 1: Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (2 hours)

The content of this module will:

- Discuss the changing world demographics and the growing prevalence of ADRD
- Identify early warning signs of ADRD and provide screening tools to help with diagnosis
- Highlight the health needs of care partners and family of patients with ADRD

Module 2: Looking at ADRD through a New Lens (1 hour)

The content of this module will:

- Discuss the importance of referring patients to geriatric-specific healthcare practitioners
- Define "physical" and "chemical" restraints
- Identify effective behavioral interventions as alternatives to psychoactive medications

Module 3: Patient Safety (1 hour)

The content of this module will:

- Explain why impaired executive functioning puts the patient's safety at risk
- Identify effective communication strategies and environmental modifications to address behavioral problems
- Discuss the safety concern of wandering and effective strategies to help prevent it

Module 4: Patient, Care Partner and Family Issues (1 hour)

The content of this module will:

- Describe the various ways ADRD affects patients, care partners and family
- Identify strategies to assist care partners and family with stress and burnout
- Discuss resources for care partners and family of patients with ADRD

Module 5: Cultural Issues (1 hour)

The content of this module will:

- Describe the importance of addressing cultural differences when working with patients, care partners and family of patients with ADRD
- Define "health literacy" and outline several measures used to test patients

Module 6: The Interprofessional Team (1 hour)

The content of this module will:

- Discuss the benefits of interprofessional healthcare to the patient and practitioners
- Describe ways in which interprofessional healthcare can be implemented

Module 7: Senior GEMS (1 hour)

The content of this module will:

- Identify key characteristics of patients as they progress through the five levels of dementia
- Describe how to create an easy-to-use dementia care model

