



Lifespan Gerontology Certificate Program

in partnership with the Finger Lakes Geriatric Education Center (FLGEC) at the University of Rochester



Frequently Asked Questions

Can I pay for the course per semester rather than paying for the full certificate program at once?

Yes! There is an option to pay by semester. The fall semester begins in September and the spring semester begins in January. If you are paying by semester but intend to take the full certificate program, just be sure to communicate this to the Director of Education & Training, Anna, so she can follow up with you for payment prior to the start of the next semester. This is important as some students that pay by semester only intend to take that one semester of classes.

There are a couple of classes that I will have to miss, but I want to complete the whole course. What do I do?

Not a problem. All sessions are recorded (and can only be viewed by registered students). Reflection questions will be posted to the password-protected online student portal. You will be asked to submit those to gerontology@lifespan-roch.org to illustrate how you've engaged with the material and receive credit.

I started the program when Lifespan was previously affiliated with St. John Fisher for this course. How do I complete the course now that this certificate program is a partnership between Lifespan and the Finger Lakes Geriatric Education Center (FLGEC) at University of Rochester?

Contact Lifespan's Director of Education & Training, Anna Stetzel, at 585-498-4022 or astetzel@lifespan-roch.org and she will review which classes you still need to attend to receive a certificate.

I'm an LMSW, is there an extra cost to receive continuing education contact hours?

There is no longer an extra fee or limit to how many CE contact hours you can receive if you are a licensed MSW. If you would like the CE contact hours, you will need to complete an evaluation after each class and then Anna will provide you with your certificate.

Is this course only for social workers?

No! Although we do have a lot of social workers who attend this program, we also have lawyers, nurses, mental health counselors, pharmacists, and more. Additionally, we have a lot of participants who are retired. This course is designed for anyone interested in learning more about aging and longevity topics. You do not currently have to be in a professional role working with older adults to take this course.

Can I receive college credit for this course?

No, this is a noncredit, contact hour certificate program.

There's a class on a topic that I already know a lot about, do I still have to attend?

If you are especially knowledgeable about a certain topic, we would love for you to attend. You can share your knowledge with the class. In this foundational gerontology course, there will be some topics with which you are extremely familiar and others not as much. We all have a lot to learn from not only the instructors, but from each other, whether that's through professional or lived experience. Even if there's something you have studied a lot, we encourage you to remain open to continued learning and ask questions.

There are certain topics that pique my interest, but I don't want to take the whole course. Is that possible?

Yes, you can attend by unit if you are not looking to complete the whole course.

Do we have homework, tests, papers, or required reading?

Short answer, no, not really. Longer answer: we recently completed a program evaluation of this certificate program. A strong majority indicated that it was a huge draw that there's no homework or tests. In the 40 years this program has existed, we have not had tests or homework. There is suggested reading if you are interested in engaging more with a particular topic. However, there may be a couple of classes in which the instructors will ask for students to view a short video or read a brief article ahead of time. There will be no penalty if you do not view or read in advance, however, you will get more out of the class if you engage with additional suggested material in advance.

I started this year, but I have had to miss a lot of classes. It feels like too much to watch all those recordings. May I make up those classes next year without an additional fee?

Yes, it has been our policy over the years to have enrollment rollover without additional fees.

I missed the first couple of classes of the year but would like to attend the rest. Is that possible?

Yes, contact Lifespan's Director of Education & Training, Anna Stetzel, at 585-498-4022 or astetzel@lifespan-roch.org and she will provide you with your options to make up that credit and join the program.

If you have additional questions, please contact:

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