Course Enhancement Program

The world’s population continues to grow older due to people living longer and having fewer children. Beyond the Baby Boomer generation, older adults will continue to represent a large proportion of our communities, here in the United States and around the globe. This demographic shift will affect every facet of our society and our collective lives, from housing to healthcare, finance to fashion, policy to practice. Current students need to know something about the aging of society because they will experience it firsthand in their own personal and professional lives, regardless of their major in college and subsequent career. The issues are real and span every academic discipline.

To help prepare students for this change, Washington University’s Harvey A. Friedman Center for Aging at the Institute for Public Health is offering course enhancement awards to support the incorporation of aging-relevant topics into new and existing courses at Washington University. Proposals chosen for this program will receive:

- A $250 award that can be used for course materials, guest speakers, project reviewers, field trip expenses, or other resources needed to support the incorporation of aging-relevant material into your course.
- Consultation from the Friedman Center for Aging to help you develop lectures, activities, and assignments, as well as connect to community resources.

Course Enhancement Examples

Courses can be enhanced by exposing students to new content or experiences or adapting existing material. Below are examples; other ideas are encouraged.

- Add an aging-related lecture or content to an existing course. For example:
  - The Biology of Lifespan and Longevity
  - Popular Entitlement Programs: Social Security and Medicare
  - Depictions of Aging in Film
  - Business Opportunities for Older Adult Markets
  - Ethical Issues and Personhood in the Context of Dementia
  - Late-Life Family Relationships in Short Fiction
  - Depictions of Aging in Children’s Literature
  - Technology and Design to Support Aging in the Community
  - Sexuality and Relationships in Later Life
  - Healthcare Design for Older Adults
  - Epidemiology of Aging
  - Models of Work and Retirement for an Aging Society
  - Creativity in Later Life
  - Ethical Issues in End-of-Life Care
  - The History of Anti-Aging Medicine
  - The Effect of Racial Inequity on Life Expectancy in the United States
• Invite another Washington University expert to class to discuss their scholarship. The Center for Aging maintains a list of University experts in aging for reference.

• Bring in a local speaker who can address work they do in the community related to aging (e.g., attorney specializing in estate planning and elder law, certified financial planner, urban designer, nursing home administrator, geriatrician, policy advocate, hospice nurse).

• Invite older adults to participate in your class. They could serve as reviewers for a project or share their perspectives on course material. The class would not have to be about aging, but instead would be an opportunity to hear from individuals from different generations about their experiences.

• Take a field trip to organizations that serve older adults in the St. Louis area or neighborhoods where students can view built environments through an aging-friendly community lens. Example sites: Crown Center for Senior Living, The Village at Makenzie Place, Dolan Memory Care, University City Senior Center, Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood, STL Village footprint.

Proposal Submission

• Proposals for courses are accepted on a rolling basis. Proposals should be submitted at least eight weeks before the beginning of a course.

• Proposals should include the following information, in no more than two pages:
  1. Faculty/Instructor name & department/program.
  2. Course number, title, and semester offered.
  3. Brief description of the goal for enhancing the curriculum and the topic of interest; if the proposal is an addition to existing curriculum, include current syllabus.
  4. Brief description of assistance requested from the Center.

• Friedman Center staff are available to consult prior to proposal submission. For questions contact Stephanie Herbers at CenterforAging@wustl.edu or 314-747-9234.

• Submit proposals to CenterforAging@wustl.edu.