

A multi-disciplinary approach to ethnogeriatric training to develop cultural competence when working with older adults

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Introduction: Ethnogerontology addresses the study of aging from the perspective of diversity, with culturally competent practice being the desired outcome (Crewe, 2004). Ethnogeriatric training promotes cultural sensitivity and cultural competency to improve the quality of care for older adults (Yeo & McBride, 2008). Objectives: Participants will become aware of how to design a multi-disciplinary ethnogeriatric training workshop for future health-care professionals that focuses on developing cultural competence when working with other adults. Description: Faculty from occupational therapy, nutrition and food science and social work developed a multi-disciplinary ethnogeriatric training workshop to increase the knowledge and skills for students in the College of Applied Arts and Sciences. The results of this training will be presented. Conclusions: A multi-disciplinary approach to ethnogeriatric training is an option for developing cultural competency among students in health profession fields. Cultural competency is critical for best practice for the delivery of occupational therapy services. Contribution to practice: Cultural competence is defined as the application of culturally appropriate health care interventions and practices (Wells, 2003). The provision of culturally competent services has the potential to improve health outcomes, increase efficiency of services and result in greater client satisfaction (Anderson et al., 2003). The use of a panel of educators from different health professions provides students with an interdisciplinary perspective on the topic.

Reference list:

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