



Spring 2021

Geriatric Interdisciplinary Assessment Team (GAIT) Project

GAIT Project Overview: The Geriatric Assessment Interdisciplinary Team (GAIT) project is funded by the University System of Maryland (USM) Redeployment Grant System. The project is designed by the [Maryland Area Health Education Centers \(MAHECs\)](#) in partnership with the Geriatrics & Gerontology Education and Research (GGEAR) Program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Graduate School.

The GAIT project is a **free program** for health and social science undergraduate, graduate, and professional students enrolled in a University System of Maryland (USM) Institution. GAIT introduces students to the comprehensive geriatric assessment and the fundamentals of interprofessional (interdisciplinary) collaboration through both didactic and clinical sessions.

The unexpected circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in our having to be creative in the delivery of these valuable learning experiences that typically take place at geriatric sites such as medical & rehabilitative hospitals, independent living & long-term care communities, and hospice & palliative care settings.

For the safety of the vulnerable populations with whom our GAIT participants interact, the GAIT projects for academic year 2020-21 will be virtual using this blackboard platform. ***This online training site is designed with the same mix of activities that normally take place on-site and will take you approximately eight (8-9) hours to complete. There is no charge for USM students to participate in the GAIT program.***

The GAIT project provides an opportunity for students to:

- ◆ Interact with students and professionals from a variety of disciplines;
- ◆ Participate in team-building exercises that focus on the value of an interdisciplinary approach to improve quality of care for older adults;
- ◆ Understand services provided to older adults; and
- ◆ Learn about the needs of underserved older adult communities within our state.

As an interprofessional learning experience, GAIT is designed to help students:

- ◆ Understand the uniqueness of interprofessional teams and its value in providing person-centered care;
- ◆ Recognize barriers to effective communication in health care teams and identify ways to reduce conflict and disagreement;
- ◆ Explain aging processes and the diversity of the older adult population;
- ◆ Evaluate best practices in honoring the autonomy of older persons; and
- ◆ Employ effective intergenerational communication skills (verbal, non-verbal, written) to recruit prospects and engage with members.

Participant Expectations

- ◆ Register using your **valid university email** at least two weeks before the scheduled start date of your select GAIT experience(s). **Log in credentials will be sent to this email only.**
- ◆ Complete asynchronous Blackboard activities prior to the scheduled 'live' portion of the GAIT experience
- ◆ Be a present and active participant in the synchronous interprofessional group activities

Spring 2021 GAIT TOPICS & DATES (may select more than one)

Note: Others may be added and announced to your professor as they are scheduled

Date: Required Group Activity: **Wed, March 3; 12:00-4:00pm**; Bb site opens five (5) earlier for Independent Work
Topic: Advancing Care Excellence: Special Considerations for Recovery & Rehabilitation of Older Veterans
Registration Link: [Eastern Shore AHEC](#)
Information: Sara Smith ssmith@esahec.org

Date: Required Group Activity: **Thurs, March 18; 12:00-4:00pm**; Bb site opens five (5) earlier for Independent Work
Topic: Providing Care & Service to Isolated Older Adults
Registration Link: [Central Maryland AHEC](#)
Information: Meredith Hochman meredithhochman@centralmarylandahec.org

Date: Required Group Activity: **Thurs, March 25; 1:00-5:00pm**; Bb site opens five (5) earlier for Independent Work
Topic: Judgement & Insight of Medical Diagnosis Related to Dementia
Registration Link: [Western Maryland AHEC](#)
Information: Joy Taylor jtaylor@ahecwest.org

Date: Required Group Activity: **Fri, April 23; 12:00-4:00pm**; Bb site opens five (5) earlier for Independent Work
Topic: Falls Later in Life: Risk Assessment, Prevention, and Management
Registration Link: [Eastern Shore AHEC](#)
Information: Sara Smith ssmith@esahec.org

Date: Required Group Activity: **Thurs, May 6; 12:00-4:00pm**; Bb site opens five (5) earlier for Independent Work
Topic: Providing Care & Service to Isolated Older Adults
Registration Link: [Central Maryland AHEC](#)
Information: Sara Smith meredithhochman@centralmarylandahec.org

Contact Information

General Information: Dr. Diane Martin, diane.martin@umaryland.edu

Eastern Shore AHEC: Sara Smith, ssmith@esahec.org

AHEC West: Joy Taylor, jtaylor@ahecwest.org

Central AHEC: Meredith Hochman, meredithhochman@centralmarylandahec.org

Blackboard credential & Trouble-Shooting: Min Park, minkyong.park@umaryland.edu