

Moorpark College Sabbatical Leave Report for Spring 2026

Gerontological Nursing Certification

Submitted by Olga Kublanovsky (aka Olga Myshina)

Nursing and Health Sciences Faculty

Background of Sabbatical Project

According to United States Census Bureau, number of the Americans ages 65 and over is projected to increase from 58 million in 2022 to 82 million in 2050. That makes 47% of geriatric population in the country ([US Census Bureau, 2023](#)). This change is not unique to US or other developed countries. According to World Health Organization, by 2025 the world's population of people 60 years and older will double, making it 2.1 billion ([WHO, 2024](#)). While the population ages, the demand for the healthcare professionals trained to care for aging population, also known geriatric, increases. Among those healthcare professionals in need are geriatric nurses.

While geriatric nurses hold standard Registered Nurse (RN) license, their roles and duties go beyond traditional nursing care. They are trained to customize their care for the needs of geriatric population. As other nursing specialties, several organizations offer certifications, including Gerontological Nursing Certifications, that enhance expertise in this field.

Instructor's Background as It Relates to the Project and Instructor's Role at Moorpark College

Since starting as a Nursing Science and Health Sciences Faculty at Moorpark College (MC) in 2011, I have been teaching geriatric clinical courses – lab courses that specialize in care for elderly in the clinical setting. I have been an RN for over 20 years. While I transitioned into teaching path of the profession, I continue working in one of the acute care facilities in the community. My clinical experience includes medical-surgical and telemetry nursing. However, several years ago the hospital unit where I work became Acute Care of Elderly (ACE) designated unit. This designation was the result of hard work and great achievement for the organization and its staff. The unit follows the best practices to meet the needs of hospitalized geriatric population. My passion for geriatric nursing, as well as practicing on ACE unit, makes me effective instructor in geriatric clinical nursing courses. However, I believe that obtaining Geriatric Nursing Certification (GERO-BC) would enhance my knowledge and clinical skills even further.

Purpose of Sabbatical Project

Goal of my project was to enhance my knowledge in geriatric nursing that would aid me in creating learning environment that promotes comprehensive understanding of nursing care of geriatric population.

Completed Components of the Sabbatical Project

Objective 1: Complete gerontological certification review course at Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing (HIGN) at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing.

During my sabbatical, I completed gerontological certification review course at HIGN. The course provided a comprehensive review of the care of older adults. It was organized to reflect the specific sections of the exam, and fulfilled one of the requirements - 30 Nursing Continuing Professional Development Contact Hours (CEUs) - in order to apply for the certification. Another eligibility requirement was completion of 2,000 hours of clinical practice in the specialty area of gerontological nursing within the last 3 years. This requirement was met through my bedside nursing experience at ACE unit.

The content of the course covered the following topics:

- Overview: Gerontological Nursing Certification Review Course
- Foundations of Practice for Gerontological Nursing
- Health Promotion and Assessment and Age-Related Changes
- Geriatric Syndromes
- Psychological Issues: The Three D's: Depression, Dementia and Delirium
- Palliative Care
- Pain
- Common Cardiovascular Health Conditions
- Common Health Conditions-Part 1
- Common Health Conditions-Part 2
- Legal and Ethical Issues
- Healthcare Policy
- Special Populations of Older Adults ([HIGN, 2024](#))

In addition to reviewing the different sections, I completed two practice exams.

Hoping to cover the cost of the course (\$299), I applied for the professional development funds. Unfortunately, I found out that professional development funds could not be provided during the time of the sabbatical.

Objective 2: Review the literature provided by American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) in Gerontological Nursing reference list.

During my sabbatical, I reviewed multiple references from the literature provided by American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) in Gerontological Nursing reference list. The main focus was on the newest edition of the textbook utilized in geriatric nursing course within our program - Eliopoulos, C. (2026). *Gerontological nursing* (11th ed.). Wolters Kluwer Health | Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Objective 3: Pass GERO-BC - Gerontological Nursing Certification exam.

During my sabbatical, I collected the eligibility requirement documentation, applied, and mastered Gerontological Nursing Certification exam. This exam was offered by (ANCC). The cost for the exam was \$395. After completion of the exam, I worked on developing the unfolding case study *Parkinson's Disease (PD) & Lewy Body Dementia (LBD)*. This case study could be

utilized in the clinical setting as well as classroom environment, for the group discussions and individual learning activities in geriatric nursing course of our program.

Value of Sabbatical Project to Moorpark College Nursing Students

Integrating gained knowledge in the area of geriatric nursing into my teaching practice will benefit nursing students who take geriatric nursing course as part of their required curriculum within the nursing program. I will continue looking into developing the learning activities and adopting already developed activities for geriatric population into my nursing courses. The activities will be aligned with the best practices and the standards of care in this field.

Value of Sabbatical Project to the Instructor's Professional Competence

I was very pleased to achieve GERO-BC. While I have been teaching geriatric nursing care clinical course and practicing nursing on ACE unit for several years, getting more in-depth knowledge and obtaining this specialty certification will strengthen me as an instructor and practitioner. I serve as a content expert in geriatric nursing within my program. Obtaining GERO-BC will expand my expertise.

Value of Sabbatical Project to Moorpark College and VCCCD

Moorpark College Nursing Program is California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) approved and nationally accredited by Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Both organizations look for the higher achievements among the teaching faculty and evidence of knowledge of the content experts. Considering that our program has very limited number of full-time faculty (nine to be exact), having a faculty that could step into teaching an additional theory course (geriatric nursing) could be beneficial.

Thank you for this opportunity to enhance my professional knowledge and improve my teaching abilities.

Respectfully,



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Test Date: Mar 03, 2026

Confirmation Number: 0000000108865764

ANCC ID: 2026001680

Gerontological Nursing

Congratulations! You have passed the Gerontological Nursing certification exam. See below for what to expect dependent on your candidate status. To check candidate status, please visit www.nursingworld.org/ancc and select "LOG IN." Once logged in, select "MY ACCOUNT" and "CERTIFICATIONS."

- For candidates in **Authorized to Test (ATT)** status, the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) will retain exam results according to policy and will issue a certification only after a final, degree-conferred, official transcript is received and all other eligibility criteria are met. Candidates in this status are not certified by passing examination – all requirements must be met prior to issuance of certification.
- For candidates in **Eligible** status, the ANCC will change the status to **Certified** upon receipt of exam results.
- Once the status is changed to **Certified**, the certificant can expect to receive a wall certificate and certified pin within 4-6 weeks. Certificants may download a wallet card from their online account.
 - To receive an official letter of verification of ANCC certification for legal, educational, work-related, or other purposes, please visit www.nursingworld.org/ancc and submit an electronic certification verification request. Certificants must submit a unique request for each verification letter needed.
 - Certificants should visit www.nursingworld.org/ancc regularly to update contact information and track professional development required for renewal. Once logged in, certificants select "MY ACCOUNT" for menu options.

Questions? Please contact ANCC at (800) 284-2378, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (ET) or e-mail certification@ana.org.



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AMERICAN NURSES CREDENTIALING CENTER

CERTIFICATION

Certification #2026001680

Certification Valid

03/03/2026 to 03/02/2031

Name of Certification:

GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING
CERTIFICATION (GERO-BC)

Awarded to:

Olga Myshina



This card should not be used to verify current certification, as certifications can be revoked under certain circumstances. To obtain official verification of certification, visit www.nursingworld.org/ancc.