

specifies preparatory work that programs should undertake prior to applying for accreditation. Based on insights gained from the first round of AGECE accreditation reviews at the master's, baccalaureate and associate levels, Section VI of the Handbook has been revised to clarify expectations about the self-study. Specifically, greater emphasis has been placed on 1) following the Standards outline in Section V of the Handbook, 2) insuring that all relevant information is contained in the self-study and, 3) requiring that the complete document, including appendices, is submitted well in advance of the site visit. This presentation describes the content and revisions in Section VI, as well as the process for submitting the self-study.

ASSESSMENT OF THE AGECE STANDARD DEMONSTRATING STUDENT LEARNING

Robert J. Maiden,¹ and Jan Abushakrah², 1. *Alfred University, Alfred, New York, United States*, 2. *Portland Community College, Portland, Oregon, United States*

Addressing the gerontology program's experience in measuring and integrating the competencies in their curricula is a fundamental challenge in program evaluation. Using the AGHE Gerontology Competencies for Undergraduate and Graduate Education is the key. We will demonstrate how one identifies the learning outcome measures across the curriculum based on the competencies by adumbrating a four-step process. First, it entails developing a written statement of the key learning outcomes, expressing them in objective, measurable terms. Second, the learning outcomes are assessed. Third, the results of the assessments are posted in a matrix format across a four or five year period. Fourth, the results of the learning outcome assessments are discussed, evaluated, and implemented in a formative process to improve teaching and learning. In addition, the results can be applied in a summative way to evaluate and improve the gerontology program.

SESSION 2105 (SYMPOSIUM)

LIVING IN RURAL CONTEXTS: TOWARD A CRITICAL INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE ON RURAL AGING

Chair: Kieran Walsh, *NUI Galway, Galway, Ireland, Ireland*

Co-Chair: Mark Skinner, *Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada*

Despite a growing focus on rural ageing, international literature in this field remains underdeveloped in critical and interdisciplinary perspectives. Reflecting traditional divisions across geographic, gerontological and health literatures, how we understand experiences of growing older in rural settings can still be characterised by a narrow, applied approach. This has implications for our capacity to disentangle multifaceted lived realities from rural contexts, and macro socio-economic and structural environments. There then remains questions about the ways in which the study of rural ageing needs to develop to direct policy, research and practice agendas to be a more critical reflection of these complexities. This symposium aims to draw together interdisciplinary critical perspectives on ageing and rurality as a means to advance

this development. It will consider different theoretical approaches and major cross cutting challenges in relation to rural ageing. Burholt and Scharf will examine how critical gerontology has raised awareness of the heterogeneity of rural ageing across social justice elements of demography, resources, recognition and representation. Keogh and Walsh address these same elements in relation to the empirical intersection of exclusion and change in the production of a new rurality for older people. Cutchin and Rowles present a pragmatist theoretical perspective to encapsulate the essence of rural integration within an ever-changing milieu. Poulin et al. offer a critical approach to rural gerontological health that emphasizes intersectionality in the formation and development of older adult health. Herron and Skinner explore the intersectional construction of dementia and mental health in rural settings for older adults.

CRITICAL SOCIAL GERONTOLOGY AND RURAL AGING

Vanessa Burholt,¹ and thomas Scharf², 1. *Swansea University, Swansea, United Kingdom*, 2. *Newcastle University, Newcastle, England, United Kingdom*

This paper examines the extent to which critical gerontology has raised awareness of the heterogeneity of rural ageing in High Income Countries (HICs) and compare this to our knowledge of the issues that are associated with rural ageing in Low to Middle Income Countries (LMICS). We will draw on Nancy Fraser's social justice framework to summarize key issues around: (1) Demography (such as globalization, urbanization, counter-urbanization and rural population ageing); (2) Resources (individual material and social resources; community resources such as access to services); (3) Recognition (social status, cultural visibility through social participation and cultural worth through valued social roles); (4) Representation (in social, health and rural development policies; and in private sector and NGO approaches). We argue that an intersectional approach that takes into account location and context (structural/economic/political) alongside other dimensions of oppression and/or privilege can provide a better understanding of the experience of ageing in rural areas.

PROCESSES OF EXCLUSION AND NEW RURALITY: COMMUNITY CHANGE IN THE LIVES OF RURAL OLDER PEOPLE

Sinead Keogh,¹ and Kieran Walsh², 1. *National University of Ireland Galway, Galway, Ireland, Ireland*, 2. *Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, Galway, Galway, Ireland*

Rural settings are sites of rapid change. Now sharing many of the processes that characterise their urban neighbourhood counterparts, older people's rural communities, even those in remote locations, are being altered by forces driven by gentrification and population churn. While the potential for displacement is apparent, the extent to which older people respond to these processes is not well understood. The degree to which these shifting contexts produce new exclusionary mechanisms for older people to contend with and new opportunities for them to exploit has yet to be sufficiently explored. This paper aims to address the intersection of exclusion and community change in the production of a new rurality for older people. The analysis will 1) present an