# Undergraduate Gerontology DCE™ Learning Objectives

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| **Describe the major physiological, psychological, emotional and sociological changes experienced by healthy older adults**                                                                                           | • Complete a patient interview to collect relevant subjective data  
• Completed a focused physical assessment to collect relevant objective data  
• Document in the EHR accurately, using professional terminology  
• Educate and Empathize with the patient to engage in therapeutic communication  
• Complete an SBAR hand-off that reflects clinical decision making skills                                                                                      | ✔   | ✔        |           |           | ✔          |
| **Identify major health deviations and “geriatric syndromes” for which older adults may be at risk, including appropriate assessment strategies**                                                                     | • Assess ADLs, IADLs, prevalent problems such as SPICES, gait and balance, fall risk, and frailty through interview and physical assessment  
• Use therapeutic communication techniques to educate and express empathy regarding patient concerns or deficits  
• Administer evidence-based screenings for cognitive impairment and depression                                                                                                                                   | ✔   | ✔        |           |           | ✔          |
| **Demonstrate use of evidence-based screenings and assessment techniques for the older adult patient**                                                                                                           | • Administer a brief screening for cognitive impairment  
• Administer the PHQ-2 as an initial screening for depression as recommended by USPSTF and others  
• Incorporate results into recommendations for additional assessment in an SBAR hand-off                                                                                                                  | ✔   | ✔        |           |           | ✔          |
| **Apply principles of medication management to the care of the older adult patient**                                                                                                                            | • Perform medication reconciliation to uncover issues with regimen adherence and polypharmacy  
• Review home and ordered medications for those inappropriate for older adults (Beers list)  
• Educate the patient regarding discovered medication issues and strategies for adherence  
• Synthesize an approach to address medication management issues in an SBAR hand-off                                                                                                                   | ✔   | ✔        |           |           | ✔          |
| **Apply therapeutic communication techniques to the care of older adults**                                                                                                                                       | • Educate the patient in areas of low health literacy and about available resources for care  
• Use empathetic, nonjudgmental communication to establish rapport                                                                                                                                             | ✔   | ✔        |           |           | ✔          |
| **Analyze the needs of older adults and their families for health care services and implications for health policy, financing, and service availability**                                                               | • Complete an SBAR hand-off that considers referrals such as targeted medical care of ancillary services (PT, nutrition, OT, social services)                                                                 | ✔   | ✔        |           |           | ✔          |

Patricia presents with confusion but does not exhibit cognitive impairment  
Esther presents with memory issues and exhibits cognitive impairment
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| Analyze barriers for older adults in receiving, understanding, and giving of information | • Adapt interviewing approach when a patient’s capacity to be a “good historian” is in question  
• Incorporate information provided by a family member into clinical decision making | ✓    | ✓        | ✓         | ✓         | ✓           |
| Analyze health care needs at the end of life, including symptom management and advocating for timely and appropriate palliative and hospice care | • Assess patient’s readiness for palliative or hospice care during the patient interview  
• Complete an SBAR hand-off recommending a transition to hospice care | ✓    | ✓        | ✓         | ✓         | ✓           |