

The Society for the Arts in Dementia Care Continuing Education Program and Accreditation Policy

Overview

Continuing education is an essential component of professional development. The Society has a mandate to promote educational events. In 2011, the Society, through accredited Learning Units (LUs), began developing a continuing education program, aimed at assisting members and non-members in the acquisition of professional knowledge and skills. The Society Board Directors passed a mandate to attached non-binding LUs to its learning activities. These learning activities aim to meet the following performance criteria.

Activities Must:

1. Be of a minimum thirty (30) minutes in length
2. Have educational purpose and learning objectives
3. Be well designed and include structured learning activities
4. Bear relevance to a psychosocial and/or biomedical approach to dementia care
5. Be relevant for visual and performing arts use in dementia care
6. Have relevance to creative expression and aging
7. Be planned and presented by qualified instructors, academics or practitioners in relevant fields

Note: The Society continuing education program only provides evidence of an individual's attendance and participation in an educational activity provided by the Society at a conference or workshops. The Society documentation may be submitted to the delegate's organization or institution for consideration and possible training credit.

Introduction

The Society continuing education program was introduced on November 13, 2010. It followed the adoption of a motion put forward by the Society Chair, Dr. Dalia Gottlieb-Tanaka. Even though, the Society applications to obtain accreditation through acknowledged accreditation agencies and organizations met preliminary approval, the process was both expensive and time consuming and was not taken up.

In order to gain wider recognition of the Society activities, the Society Board of Directors decided to provide participants with Learning Unit attendance certificates. This gave participants the opportunity to earn relevant professional development points, whilst attending the Society Learning Units, workshops and events. Participants were able to present attendance certificates to organizations or institutions for learning recognition.

The Society Board of Directors have always strived for excellence in dementia programming and service provision. It has succeeded in attracting qualified presenters

from both professional practice and internationally recognized academic institutions. To meet rigorous educational objectives, the Society selection process is applied to every event.

Educational Activity Presentation Criteria

The Society requires presenters to supply the following:

1. A 250 words outline of the proposed educational activity
2. An explanation of the learning aims, objectives and outcomes with documented assessments
3. A current CV outlining each presenter's qualifications and experience

Proof of Registration and Participation in an Educational Activity

Personal Information

The Society system is designed to protect and record personal contact information and payment. Participants may obtain a secure on-line registration certificate.

Participants will fill out a sign-in sheet as proof of attendance. In their registration package, participants will receive a Society certificate of participation to be signed by a Board member at the end of each activity. The certificate will record the participant's name, the title of the activity, the date and length of the activity and the suggested Learning Units assigned.

Learning Units

Although some organization may vary in their credit allocations, Learning Units (LU) and Continuing Education (CE) credits are measured, recorded and identified as follows:

- A typical thirty (30) minute, the Society approved learning activity, equals one (1) LU credit point.
- A three-hour (3) the Society approved learning activity session would typically earn six (6) LU credit points.

Educational Activities and Formats

The Society, credit eligible, learning activities must be planned and educational. The activities must be relevant to professional practice in aging and in dementia-specific care. The activities may be relevant in research and design or in facility management enhancement.

Learning activities may take place in typical classrooms or at conferences, workshops and seminars. The format may provide hands-on demonstrations in the visual arts such as painting. The performing arts may include drama activity demonstration or the

exploration of dance and body movement.

Qualifying Topics for Learning Units

The Society Board of Directors will select relevant events topics. Qualifying topics may cover a wide range of disciplines including:

- Visual and performing arts programming for an aging population
- Visual and performing arts programming in dementia care
- Aging and dementia care visual and performing arts program evaluation
- New psychosocial and spiritual activities
- Innovative therapeutic environment design, including safety and disability accessibility
- Working within a legal and ethical framework: Advocating for the human rights of people living with dementia
- New approaches in aged care facility management
- Caregiver interaction with clients
- Dementia-specific research focusing on developing creative expression programs and evaluation
- Dementia-specific product development
- Education in the fields of aging and dementia care

Benefits of Providing Continuing Learning Units

The benefits of establishing Learning Units are three-fold:

1. To streamline the process that enables participants to obtain professional development recognition by participating in the Society education
2. To attract new and different participants to the Society functions
3. To attract participants seeking professional development accredited opportunities.

Are There any Learning Unit Requirements?

The Society suggests the number of Learning Units assigned to a given Educational Activity. It is up to each individual participating in the Society educational events to decide how to use, and benefit from, Learning Units.

Future Plans Regarding the Society Continuing Education Program

The Society will continue to strive for excellence and the promotion of best practice in aging and dementia-specific care. The Society will continue to design and develop an innovative, mutually beneficial education program.