

Project Title

Interdisciplinary Falls Prevention Student Education

Sponsoring Organizations

1. D'Youville College
2. Catholic Charities of Buffalo

Summary of Program

Universities and Institutions around the country are continually looking for new and innovative methods for educating students. Academics from three departments including Physical Therapy, Nursing, and Occupational Therapy at D'Youville College created an interdisciplinary class focused on educating students about the multifactorial causes of falls in older adults. Both graduate and undergraduate students were eligible for class enrollment as an elective. This class incorporated three areas that impact fall risk in older adults including:

1. Medication Management
2. Home Safety
3. Balance and Mobility

Students experienced learning in a variety of methods including a classroom experience, a virtual blackboard discussion, and community involvement. Students were given the opportunity to implement falls prevention learnings in the local community through arranged falls prevention and screening events at local senior housing sites.

Toolkit Components on Separate DVD

The accompanying DVD includes all the material utilized by the faculty members to implement this course and to conduct the community falls prevention screening. Items on the DVD include:

1. Readings
2. Voice over PowerPoint
3. Video demonstration
4. Video Interviews with Older Adults who have fallen
5. Course Syllabus
6. Community Falls Assessment Day Planning and Preparation Material

Impact on Falls Prevention

Course evaluations indicated that engaging students from three disciplines to participate in falls prevention work in the community was reviewed as a valuable addition to the academic activities at D'Youville College.