

GERONTOLOGICAL COUNSELING TRANSCRIPT

HI, MY NAME IS JOHN BLANDO. I'M THE COORDINATOR OF GERONTOLOGICAL COUNSELING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING AT SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY.

WHAT IS GERONTOLOGICAL COUNSELING? IT IS JUST LIKE IT SOUNDS: IT IS COUNSELING OLDER ADULTS, COUNSELING FAMILIES WITH OLDER ADULTS, COUNSELING CLIENTS WITH ISSUES RELATED TO AGING OR END OF LIFE.

WHERE DO GERONTOLOGICAL COUNSELORS WORK? GERONTOLOGICAL COUNSELORS MAY WORK IN A NUMBER OF SETTINGS. THEY MAY WORK AT SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES, FOR EXAMPLE PROVIDING SERVICES TO OLDER ADULTS, UM, DAY CARE SERVICES, SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES, ELDER ABUSE SERVICES. THEY MAY WORK IN NURSING HOMES OR OTHER RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES. UM, THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS.

WHAT DO GERONTOLOGICAL COUNSELORS MAKE? GERONTOLOGICAL COUNSELORS PROBABLY START OFF THEIR CAREERS MAKING SOMEWHERE IN THE MID-FIVE FIGURES. SO IN THAT REGARD THEY ARE NO DIFFERENT

THAN ANY OF THE OTHER SPECIALIZATIONS, ANY OF THE OTHER COUNSELING SPECIALIZATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT. DEPENDING UPON THE WAY THAT YOUR CAREER TRACK MOVES YOU MAKE--MAY MAKE MORE MONEY THAN THAT, UH, CONSIDERABLY MORE OR A BIT MORE THAN THAT. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF OUR PROGRAM IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN WORK WITH OLDER ADULTS? IN OUR PROGRAM A STUDENT TAKES 60 UNITS. MOST OF THOSE UNITS ARE COURSEWORK IN COUNSELING, IN COUNSELING PROCESS, COUNSELING SKILLS, DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY, UH, ABNORMAL ISSUES, UH, CULTURAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY ISSUES, UM, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, GROUP COUNSELING, A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT COURSES, ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES, A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT COURSES. THERE ARE A HANDFUL OF COURSES HOWEVER THAT ARE SPECIFIC TO THIS SPECIALIZATION AND THESE INCLUDE COURSEWORK IN THE PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF AGING, IN THE BIOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF AGING, IN COUNSELING THE OLDER ADULT PROPER, AND IN THE MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT OF OLDER ADULTS.

SO IF YOU COME INTO OUR PROGRAM WHAT'LL HAPPEN IS YOU'LL TAKE 60 UNITS OF COURSEWORK. FOUR OF THE COURSES THAT YOU TAKE, OR NINE UNITS, WILL BE IN GERONTOLOGICAL COUNSELING PROPER. IN ADDITION TO THE COURSEWORK, YOU'LL BE ASKED TO SPEND TWO YEARS

WORKING IN A FIELD PLACEMENT. YOUR FIRST YEAR, YOU'LL WORK AT LEAST 12 HOURS PER WEEK. YOUR SECOND YEAR YOU'LL WORK AT LEAST 16 HOURS PER WEEK PROVIDING DIRECT SERVICES TO OLDER ADULTS. YOU MIGHT END UP WORKING IN A NURSING HOME. YOU MIGHT END UP WORKING IN A SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY. YOU MIGHT BE WORKING WITH A SPECIFIC CLINICAL POPULATION, FOR EXAMPLE, SUBSTANCE ABUSERS. YOU MIGHT END UP WORKING WITH A SPECIFIC CULTURAL, UH, POPULATION. YOU COULD END UP WORKING IN THE AREA OF ELDER ABUSE, ELDERLY SUICIDE PREVENTION, ADULT DAY CARE, UH, INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING, A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT THINGS, A NUMBER OF FASCINATING, VERY RICH EXPERIENCES.

WHAT'S THE JOB PROSPECT LIKE FOR GERONTOLOGICAL COUNSELORS? I WOULD SAY IT IS EXCELLENT. UM, RIGHT NOW, ABOUT 12% OF THE POPULATION IS OLDER ADULTS, THAT IS ADULTS AGE 65 OR OLDER. IN THE NEXT 30 YEARS, THAT NUMBER IS GOING TO NEARLY DOUBLE TO 20% OF THE POPULATION. THAT IS, NEARLY ONE IN FIVE AMERICANS IS GOING TO BE AGE 65 AND OLDER. NOT ONLY THAT, THE POPULATION OF OLDER AMERICANS WHO ARE ETHNIC OR RACIAL MINORITIES, OR GENDER OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION MINORITIES IS INCREASING AT A MUCH MORE RAPID RATE THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION, AND SO THERE'S GOING TO BE TREMENDOUS NEED NOT ONLY FOR COUNSELORS WHO CAN WORK

WITH OLDER ADULTS BUT COUNSELORS WHO CAN WORK WITH SPECIAL POPULATIONS OF OLDER ADULTS. IF YOU ARE BILINGUAL, BICULTURAL, IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN WORKING WITH SPECIAL POPULATIONS, THEN I WOULD SAY THAT THIS MARKET IN THE COMING YEARS IS REALLY EXTRAORDINARY, REALLY EXCITING. UH, THIS IS A VERY EXCITING TIME TO GET INTO GERONTOLOGICAL COUNSELLING.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AND IF I CAN HELP YOU IN ANY WAY, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME BY E-MAIL. UH, THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY FOR RIGHT NOW. HAVE A GOOD ORIENTATION. UH, I WISH YOU WELL. I HOPE YOU CONSIDER APPLYING TO GERONTOLOGICAL COUNSELING.

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