

Geriatric Assessment Interdisciplinary Team (GAIT) Project SPRING 2026

GAIT Project Overview: The GAIT project is a **FREE PROGRAM** available to health and social science undergraduate, graduate, and professional students enrolled in a University System of Maryland (USM) institution. This educational initiative is designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of healthcare and social service students in assessing and managing the care of older adults. GAIT is funded through the University System of Maryland (USM) Redeployment Grant System.

GAIT introduces the comprehensive geriatric assessment and the fundamentals of interprofessional (interdisciplinary) collaboration through both didactic and clinical sessions. The clinical portion involves interprofessional teams of students and trainees from various disciplines, such as medicine, nursing, pharmacy, social work, dentistry, and physical therapy, working together on an assigned case.

During the Spring 2026 semester, **both virtual and in-person GAITs** are available. In-person GAIT projects are full-day, on-site events. Virtual GAITs use the Blackboard platform and Zoom conferencing services *All GAIT project and workshop participants receive a certificate of completion.*

The GAIT project provides an opportunity for students to:

- ◆ Interact with students and professionals from a variety of disciplines;
- ◆ Participate in team-building exercises that focus on the value of an interdisciplinary approach to improve quality of care for older adults;
- ◆ Understand services provided to older adults; and
- ◆ Learn about the needs of underserved older adult communities within our state

As an interprofessional learning experience, GAIT is designed to help students:

- ◆ Understand the uniqueness of interprofessional teams and its value in providing person-centered care;
- ◆ Recognize barriers to effective communication in health care teams and identify ways to reduce conflict and disagreement;
- ◆ Explain aging processes and the diversity of the older adult population;
- ◆ Evaluate best practices in honoring the autonomy of older persons; and
- ◆ Employ effective interprofessional and intergenerational communication skills

Participants are expected to:

- ◆ Participate fully in the GAIT experience. Information about expectations will be sent after your registration has been processed.

SPRING 2026 TOPICS & DATES

More Information: Dr. Diane Martin, diane.martin@umaryland.edu

1. In-Person: Friday, February 13, 2026 (11:30am-4:30pm) [REGISTER HERE](#)

Title: Geriatric Assessment Tools Workshop: A Multidisciplinary Skills Workshop

Location: The Meeting House; 5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045 (lunch provided)

Description: The Geriatric Assessment Tools Workshop is a half-day interdisciplinary training program that supports the development of clinical skills relevant to the care of older adults and emphasizes the importance of a team approach in geriatric health care planning and delivery. **Note:** This program is separate from GAIT. Please see next page for more information.

2. In-person: Thursday, March 19, 2026 (8:00am-5:00pm) [REGISTER HERE](#)

Title: Dementia in Long-term Care

***Location:** TidalHealth Alice B. Tawes Nursing & Rehab Ctr; 201 Halll Highway, Crisfield, MD 21817

* Meals, project materials, and a travel stipend are provided. Overnight accommodations available to participants traveling more than 50 miles to the training site.

Description: Alice Byrd Tawes Nursing Home is a 76-bed skilled nursing facility recognized as a “High-Performing Nursing Home” by U.S. News & World Report. With a CMS 4-star rating, we are committed to delivering exceptional care and rehabilitation services to our residents. Our dedicated team provides comprehensive skilled nursing, therapy, and long-term care in a compassionate environment. As part of our mission to enhance quality outcomes, we welcome healthcare students to gain hands-on experience in geriatric care, dementia support, and transitional care strategies that reduce avoidable hospital readmissions. Students will work alongside an interdisciplinary team, learning evidence-based practices that empower residents and improve quality of life.

3. Virtual: Thursday, March 26-April 2, 2026 [REGISTER HERE](#)

Title: Older Adults at Risk: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Suicide Prevention

Blackboard opens March 26 (~4 hours activities); Real-Time Zoom Meeting, Thursday, April 2: 3:00pm-7:00pm. Facilitator: Diane Martin, PhD, MSL, MA

Description: Learn to recognize and respond to suicide risk among older adults, an often overlooked population in prevention efforts. Through case vignettes, discussion, and evidence-informed strategies, students will explore risk and protective factors, the importance of collaborative care, and how to balance safety with respect for autonomy in later life.

4. Virtual: Thursday, April 23-30, 2026 [REGISTER HERE](#)

Title: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Hearing Health in Older Adult Care

Blackboard opens April 23 (~4 hours activities); Real-Time Zoom Meeting, Thursday, April 30: 3:00pm-7:00pm. Facilitator: Danielle Powell, AuD, PhD

Description: This GAIT will focus on recognizing and addressing hearing loss in older adults as a key component of whole-person, age-friendly care. Participants learn practical strategies to improve communication, support cognitive and social wellbeing, and coordinate audiology care across settings.

University of Maryland, Baltimore is a member of the [Age-Friendly University Global Network](#). We endorse the 10 principles of an age-friendly university and are committed to being more intentional and systematic in our approach to our aging, intergenerational population as we build meaningful and measurable collaborations. Visit our [website](#) to learn about our age-friendly initiatives. For information on becoming an age-friendly specialist, contact Dr. Diane Martin at diane.martin@umaryland.edu or download our [program booklet](#).

**University of Maryland, Baltimore Geriatrics and Gerontology Education
and Research Program**

Presents

**ASSESSMENT TOOLS for OLDER ADULTS: A Multidisciplinary
Clinical Skills Workshop**

Friday, February 13, 2026

11:30am to 4:15pm

The Meeting House

5885 Robert Oliver Place; Columbia, MD 21045

Workshop Features:

Concurrent workshops to develop clinical skills relevant to the assessment and care of older adults. A team approach in geriatrics and the value of each discipline's expertise. Students work in interdisciplinary teams to review a geriatric case study. Participate in three workshops throughout the afternoon. Reconvening with their team to reconsider the case vignette.

Workshops and Presenters:

1. *Gait & Balance Assessment of Older Adults* Dennis Klima, PT, MS, PhD, DPT, GCS, NCS
2. *Assessment of Dementia* Mary DiBartolo, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, FGSA, FAAN
3. *Assessment of Loneliness and Social Isolation* Jennifer Schermerhorn, LMSW
4. *Mental Health in Later Life: Validated Tools for Use with Older Adults* Diane Martin, PhD
5. *Older Adults & Medications* Nancy Rodriguez-Weller, RPh, FASCP
6. *Implications of Malnutrition* Michael Kirstos, MS, RDN, CSSD, LDN

Agenda:

11:30-11:45am:	Registration
11:45am-12:40pm:	Lunch
	Welcome
	Case Study Introduction
12:50- 1:40pm:	Session 1
1:50- 2:40pm:	Session 2
2:50- 3:40pm:	Session 3
3:40- 4:00pm:	Small Group Case Study Discussion
4:00- 4:15pm:	Case Study Debrief
	Closing Remarks
	Evaluation

To Register Visit:

https://umaryland.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8CDTtGapWi5v7Tg