Human Service Practice with Older Adults
Advanced, Non-Liberal, 4 credits

Human Service Practice with Older Adults is considered to be an advanced level knowledge that is non-liberal. It represents higher level skills and concepts that human service workers have acquired through applied practice. Advanced level knowledge indicates that you are able to use terminology, skills, and theory in an applied way. Human Service Practice with Older Adults is more often about how we do things (i.e., non-liberal) and not necessarily why we do things (i.e., liberal). At Empire State College, the Human Service Practice with Older Adults course is offered at the advanced level.

Please use the questions below to structure your PLA submission on the topic of Human Service Practice with Older Adults. Copy each question and respond directly below it. If you utilize an outside source, such as a website or a book, make sure to reference this in your response. The responses to the questions should be submitted in a Word document and uploaded in PLA Planner. In PLA Planner, you would list the topic as Human Service Practice with Older Adults, asking for 4 credits, and designate this as Advanced Level and Non-Liberal.

Please note – responding to these questions is <u>not</u> a guarantee of credit. You will still be expected to speak with an evaluator and answer any supplemental questions that they may have. The evaluator would then make a credit determination.

Questions for Students to respond to
<u>We suggest you save this document with your name and the title of the PLA (e.g., Smith Human Service Practice with Older Adults PLA) and answer beneath each question below.</u>
Name:
ID:
PLA Title: Human Service Practice with Older Adults
Number of Credits Requested: 4
Type: Advanced, Non-Liberal

1. Briefly describe your experiences with working with older adults in the human services field.

2. A) Describe a current demographic trend in older adults; and B) Explain how you feel this trend could potentially impact the training needs of human service professionals in the field of aging. For example, the population of aging adults is increasing.

3. Explain the type of skills and ways to approach working with older adults that may be different than working with other populations.

4. Compare and contrast the following levels of care: 1) Community based programs; 2) Residential Care Facilities; 3) Skilled Nursing Facilities. Speak to their similarities and differences. If you choose to utilize sources, please make sure to cite appropriately.

5. You are a case worker at an agency that provides home care services to elderly in their homes. You assess what each individual needs to remain safe in their home. The 83-year old Asian woman, Jane, who lives in a suburban area, has 2 children, one of whom she lives with. She likes to attend church services on the weekend and is considered to be low income. Jane has type 2 diabetes and legally blind; she is hesitant to receiving services. Her daughter is concerned that she appears to isolating herself and not interacting a lot with others. Usually Jane likes to play cards and mahjong with others, but has stopped doing so.
- What type of information would you gather in the assessment?
- How would you assess if Jane was safe in her current living situation?
- What type of resources would she need based on your assessment?
- What type of education would you conduct for Jane and her family?
- What type of cultural barriers would you face in this case?
- Overall, what challenges would you expect to see in this case?
- What kind of ethical issues may arise?