

Brief Synopsis for New Faculty, Advisory Council, Adjunct Instructors, Students, etc.

We are pleased to briefly introduce the programs and services of the Stockton Center on Successful Aging (SCOSA) and to Stockton's involvement in the Age Friendly University Global Network (AFU). Additional information is available on our website: www.stockton.edu/scosa. Because individual and population aging provides many opportunities and challenges for everyone, we hope you'll find this information useful on some level, regardless of your course(s), professions, or positions. Please *contact us if we can be of any assistance*.

SCOSA was established in 2007 to "nurture body, mind, & spirit of our older adult population through research, education and services." SCOSA builds upon Stockton's long-time leadership in interprofessional education and collaboration, and in gerontological education (Stockton's Gerontology Minor was founded in 1978).

Some key information, programs, and contacts:

While housed in the School of Social & Behavioral Sciences (SOBL), SCOSA's reach is broad:

- For example, with our encouragement the Faculty Senate endorsed, and in 2019 the university joined the [Age-Friendly-University \(AFU\) Global Network](#), a network of universities that have pledged to support 10 AFU principles. For more information, see attached Age-Friendly PowerPoint presentation or contact our AFU champion Karen.Rose@stockton.edu.
- Stockton faculty, students, and staff from across the university conduct projects of research, education, and/or service related to aging, often involving extensive community partnerships. See our [Research Page](#) for additional information.
- Since our founding, over 80 faculty members have collaborated with SCOSA. Many others have sought our assistance and technical support in course design, scholarship, and service.

SCOSA's several projects, many receiving federal funds, provide education and training for students and professionals, and extensive education, socialization/recreation and physical activity programs for older adults, often involving students. Examples include:

- **Gerontology Minor:** SCOSA supports Stockton's [Gerontology Minor](#), which blends well with many majors because of the interdisciplinary nature of the field of gerontology. Even for students who don't minor in the program, a course or two in aging can be useful for students from diverse fields of study. For additional information, coordinator Christine Gayda (Christine.Gayda@stockton.edu).
- Recently, Stockton established a **Student Chapter of the [Gerontological Society of America](#)**, the leading & oldest international interprofessional organization devoted to research & education about older adults. The chapter will host local events, and all members are granted free student membership in GSA. Contact professor Duo.Wei@stockton.edu for additional information.
- **NJ Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Project (NJGWEP):** Aims to improve health outcomes for older adults, via health assessments conducted by interprofessional teams of undergrad & graduate students, led by Dr. Elyse Perweiler (Rowan University, & SCOSA Advisory Council). Contact David.Burdick@stockton.edu for additional information. 2024-2028 expansion application in progress.

- **Certificate in Elder Care Coordination:** A 15-week online program for staff at law firms affiliated with the Life Care Planning Law Firms Association. Has trained 160 individuals from 32 states over 12 years. See [Education – Professionals](#) at our website for additional information.
- **Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group:** Weekly in-person & virtual sessions led by SCOSA’s Assistant Director Christine Ferri, Ph.D. (Christine.Ferri@stockton.edu) & Christine Gayda, Ph.D. (Christine.Gayda@stockton.edu). **Training Grant:** US ACL ADPI Sub-Award from NJDHS 2023-2025.
- **Education, Socialization/Recreation, & Physical Activity Programs for Older Adults:** The program currently represent SCOSA’s most extensive programming. Led by SCOSA’s Senior Operations Specialist Gina Maguire, MSW, LSW, our programming is offered in Atlantic, Cape May, and Ocean counties and often invites faculty/adjuncts to develop class projects and/or service-learning experiences for their students. Recent examples include Exercise Science majors leading walks and chair yoga, Computer Sciences students teaching smart-phone use, and Gerontology students conducting oral histories of community elders. For additional information see [Education – Older Adults](#) at our website or contact gina.maguire@stockton.edu.
- **SCOSA’s [Stockton Institute for Lifelong Learning \(SILL\)](#):** Established in 2019 to offer a variety of intellectually stimulating 4-part noncredit classes taught by Stockton faculty and adjuncts. Free of charge to residents 60 and over in Atlantic and Ocean counties and for a reasonable registration fee for others, the program is coordinated by SCOSA Assistant Director Christine.Ferri@stockton.edu. Consider offering a program for us that may be of interest to older learners. We pay \$115/session to faculty & adjuncts involved in this program. See attached flyer.

Research, Scholarship, Creative Expression: SCOSA disseminates **research** through continuing education programs, presentation of [American Society on Aging](#) webinars, and periodic Scholarly Lectures, and funds and guides aging research with Faculty Research Scholars who have studied topics such as hearing impairment, technology in Occupational Therapy (OT) for older adults, EEG measurement of brain function in mild cognitive impairments, and oral histories. We have also assisted with student program distinction projects.

Older Adult Subject Pool: Available to faculty researchers, and supervised students. Faculty often involve students as co-investigators. Adjunct faculty are welcome to contact us to discuss various project ideas.

Service Initiatives: SCOSA’s service initiatives range from connecting faculty experts with community needs, providing technical support, grant collaboration, and public presentations, to conducting online surveys for statewide commissions and 3-year Area Plan surveys for Area Agencies on Aging.

Services/Resources/Outreach/Benefits for New Faculty Members

- Assistance adding content, activities, assignments on age & aging to course syllabi & lesson plans. Recommends films and media resources on aging. Connecting course goals, objectives & content with Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education Guidelines and Standards for Gerontology Instruction.
- Assist in conceptualizing & implementing age-related scholarly/research/creative expression projects.

Contact Information: Campus Location: F-227 & F-231. **Complete listing at www.stockton.edu/scosa**

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