Course Project

Professional Application of Lifespan Development

For your course project, you will explore an area of lifespan development that applies to your professional goals, or a specific area of lifespan development that interests you. As part of your final project, you will either conduct an informational interview with a lifespan development professional or serve with a community partner, and conduct extensive research pertaining to the area of lifespan development you have selected.

You will select one (1) of the following final project options to follow throughout the duration of the course.

- **Option A: Lifespan Development Paper**. Explore an area of lifespan development through the eyes of a lifespan professional.
- **Option B: Lifespan Development Project**. Offer student assistance to professionals, agencies, or organizations that work with parents.

Option A: Lifespan Development Paper

Unit 3: Informational Interview: Write a 2-3 page paper in which you identify a lifespan development professional you want interview to increase your understanding about the topic in the area of lifespan development you have selected. It is not required for you to complete an interview with this person for this assignment. You will then need to develop a set of interview questions. Questions must focus on a lifespan development topic or area of professional or personal interest (do not simply ask questions about a particular profession). However, you want to be able to relate the lifespan development topic or area of interest to your professional or personal goals. As we cover new chapters and topics, feel free to refine your questions in order to make sure they actually cover the topic or area that interests you.

Some examples of lifespan development professionals include psychologists, counselors, therapists, doctors, nurses, social workers, and many more.

In this assignment, include the following:

- The topic or area of lifespan development you will explore for the course project.
- Your rationale for selecting that topic or area.
- Information about the lifespan development professional you will interview, including:
    - The professional's job title and brief description.
    - The company the professional is associated with.
    - An explanation for why you believe this person is appropriate for your interview.
    - How you located this person.

- A list of a minimum of 10-15 questions you plan to ask and a rationale for each, focusing on an area of lifespan development, not just a specific profession.
- **Submit** your paper to Turnitin and include your score in the comments section of the assignment submission.

Unit 4: Reference List: For this assignment, you will provide a list of resources you have identified as resources for your project. For each reference, provide a brief assessment of the reference that includes how you believe the source will contribute to your project. You should have 4–6 scholarly sources which can be located in the Capella library databases.

The informational interview (personal communication) will be part of the final project but will not be a part of the reference page as we do not reference personal communications. However, the interview must be cited in text. Therefore, also provide a brief assessment of the informational interview that includes how you believe the source will contribute to your project.

- **Number of Resources:** Include four to six scholarly resources.
- **Submit** your paper to Turnitin and report your score in the comments section of the assignment submission.

Unit 7: Informational Interview Synopsis: For your course project, you will be submitting a paper that explores an area of lifespan development that applies to your professional goals and values. For this assignment, you will provide a synopsis of the informational interview with the person you identified in Unit 3.

For this assignment, write a brief narrative that describes the responses your interviewee offered to the questions listed in your Unit 4 assignment. Do not simply reproduce the questions and replies. Your narrative should integrate the following elements:

- Whom did you interview?
- What were your questions?
- A summary of your findings from each question, including the best stories and quotes in the interviewee's words.
- Any theme(s) that seemed to pervade the interview.
- Your overall reaction to the information you gathered in the interview.

Include examples of the interviewee's responses to support your narrative. Be sure to use appropriate in-text citations and APA referencing for personal communication.

- Your paper should be 2-3 pages.
- **Submit** your paper to Turnitin and report your score in the comments section of the assignment submission.

Unit 9: Lifespan Development Paper In this unit you will submit your final Lifespan Development paper. This paper explores an area of lifespan development that applies to your professional goals and values, or a specific area of lifespan development that interests you. You will incorporate the information you gathered from your informational interview with a lifespan development professional, and the research that you have conducted throughout the course of this project. As you know, one of the program outcomes for your psychology specialization is the development of effective communication skills.

Final Paper Structure

Include the following sections in your paper, clearly divided by appropriate headings:

- **Title page:** List the following information:
    - Title of your paper.
    - Your name.
    - Your specialization or program.
    - Title and number of the course.
    - This quarter and year at Capella.
    - Your e-mail address.
    - Your instructor's name.

- **Body of the paper:**
    - Introduction (1 page).
    - Synopsis of the Lifespan Professional Interview (2–3 pages).
    - Literature review on the topic (3–4 pages).
    - Integration of the interview with selected research (2–3 pages).

- **References:** Include four to six scholarly references on your Reference list.
- **Length:** Your paper should be approximately 10-12 pages.

Option B: Lifespan Development Project

Unit 3: Topic Selection: This project is designed to offer student assistance to professionals, agencies, or organizations that work with parents and to provide learning experiences for students who will work with or be parents in the future. We cover a lot of topics in class, and this is your opportunity to explore one parenting topic more in depth. Please review the full project instructions under Lifespan Development Final Project Instructions Option "B" so that you have a clear understanding of what is expected of you if you select this option.

You may start by thinking of a topic or audience you would like to address in your materials. Or you may think of a professional or agency that may need parenting materials.

Submit a 2-3 page paper in which you:

1. **Decide on a topic.** This could come as a personal experience, something you would like to know more about, something you heard someone wish they had more information about (be it a teacher, a social worker, a medical professional, a childcare provider, a minister, a school counselor, or anyone else who works with parents in some way).
2. **Select a population of parents to target.** You may choose the population and the population should all have something in common, such as the age of a child, a transition they are facing, a current event with which they must cope, or geographic location. The population should be one that interests you.
3. **Select the Community Partner you want to serve.** You will select an organization where you will volunteer/serve for three (3) hours during this course. It is not required for you to complete those service hours for this assignment. You will need to have all volunteer/service hours completed by the end of Unit 6. You need to identify and describe your Community Partner and how you intend to relate this to the topic of parenting.

Submit your paper to Turnitin and include your score in the comments section of the assignment submission.

Unit 4: Needs Assessment Part 1: When you have confirmed the details of the service learning facility also known as the Community Partner (CP), you will begin assessing the needs of the individuals you will serve. Your assessment will be based on three sources of information:

1. The scientific literature.
2. Your experiences with the individuals served.
3. An interview with the site manager.

Your report on the needs assessment is composed of two sections. Section 1 is due at the end of Unit 4. Section 2 will be due at the end of Unit 7.

Section 1: Before you meet the individuals you will serve, discuss some of the big needs of the individuals with your community partner (CP). Survey the scientific literature (such as academic journals found in the Capella library databases), interview your CP to determine the risk and protective factors that may be related to the individuals' needs and clarify which factors are modifiable via education. Write a two-page (double-spaced) report on what you find, entitled **Attributed Needs**. Include APA style citations and attach a references page supporting your findings of risk and protective factors.

- **Number of Resources:** Include four to six scholarly resources.
- **Submit** your paper to Turnitin and report your score in the comments section of the assignment submission.

Unit 7: Needs Assessment Part 2: Submit Section 2 of the needs assessment.

Section II: As you gain experience with your community partner and those you serve, note factors that may affect your relationships with them (consider differences between you and those you are serving), your support of them (such as any beliefs about their responsibility or worthiness), and your communication with them (methods of speaking, learning styles, language use). Also, note what **felt needs** are directly expressed during your interactions with the community. What are some needs you can infer from your time with them? Use your reflections and conversations with your community partner to deepen your understanding of the people you are serving.

Determine the educational needs of your target group. Use available literature and direct needs assessment (for example, talking to some people who represent your target audience). What would someone in this target group want or need to know to be an advocate for their child? You may want to think about educational needs mentioned by the parents you know or have spoken to in your life. This will help you decide what to include in your final product and will also help with the reflection paper at the end. What is known about this topic? What are the conclusions the experts have drawn? What do parents need to know? Make a

list of statements that *summarize the literature*. Then write 2-3 outcome objectives for the parents who will use the educational resource. What will they know, think, or do differently after using the resource? Remember that this is a list of objectives for the audience, not for you. What will they know or do differently because of reading your materials? Make sure your objectives are realistic considering the type of resource you are creating.

- Your paper should be 2-3 pages.
- **Submit** your paper to Turnitin and report your score in the comments section of the assignment submission.

Unit 9: Project Final: Lifespan Development Project: Submit the final project.

Prepare your educational material. You may make a newsletter (or a group/series of articles to be used in newsletters over time), a set of pamphlets, or an educational booklet. In each case, there should be a clear target audience and unifying theme.

1. **Newsletters** must include at least four content articles (approximately 200-500 words each article) written by you. Do not plagiarize! This is not a copy and paste activity. You must summarize the information you gather and cite references at the end.
2. **A pamphlet series** must include at least four pamphlets (approximately 200-500 words each pamphlet). It is also possible to put together shorter sections or pieces, but the total length of all of your pieces should be about 800 to 2000 words. If you write a series of pamphlets, make it clear that they are a set by using parallel formatting and style.
3.
4. **Booklets** must include at least four sections (approximately 200-500 words each).

Your pamphlets, booklet, or newsletter should include

- sections addressing all types of learners and reading levels
- a list of written or electronic resources the parents can use ("additional resources for parents") and a review or description of at least two books, video, or community resources aimed at parents; the list and reviews should be written for parents and incorporated into your product; it should explain how they could locate the resource, what they would get from it, and why they might find it useful.
- at least 10 activities the parents can do with their children or 10 recommendations of actions the parents can take; these may be listed or incorporated into the text.
- A list of at least 4-6 scholarly references you used to create the material, provided in APA format.

Keep in mind that all of these components should be integrated into one piece (or set of pieces, if you create pamphlets) for use by parents.

Description of the process/Reflection Paper. Write a brief (approximately 2-3 pages) paper that describes the process you used in completing this assignment. Use the following questions as guidelines.

- What was the progression of steps you used to complete the material?
- How did you determine what would be of interest to your target group and what their needs would be?
- Where did you go to locate resources?
- How did you decide what kind of material to create?
- What specific practices does your material address? What philosophy did you try to follow?
- What did you learn from this assignment?
- What would you do differently if you were to do it again?

To successfully complete this project, you will be expected to:
1. Use appropriate information-gathering strategies to find information in the domain of human lifespan development.
2. Identify the important theories, paradigms, research findings and conclusions appropriate to the field of lifespan development.
3. Identify the different research methods frequently used in the study of lifespan development.
4. Differentiate empirical evidence from speculation, and probable conclusions from improbable conclusions found within the field of lifespan development.

5. Apply appropriate American Psychological Association guidelines in presentations and communications regarding human lifespan development.
6. Employ critical and creative thinking in the study of lifespan development.

Project Requirements

To achieve a successful project experience and outcome, you are expected to meet the following requirements.

For all assignments, your final paper submission should include the following:

- **Written Communication:** Written communication should be free of errors that detract from the overall message.
- **APA Formatting:** Resources and citations should be formatted according to APA (6th edition) style and formatting .
- **Font and Font Size:** Times New Roman, 12 point, double-spaced. Use Microsoft Word.
- **Submit** your paper to Turnitin.
- **Submit** your paper to the assignment area for grading.

Project Grading Criteria

Lifespan Development Project or Paper Scoring Guide Grading Rubric				
Criteria	**Non-performance**	**Basic**	**Proficient**	**Distinguished**
Use appropriate information-gathering strategies to find information in the domain of human lifespan development. 20%	Fails to use appropriate information-gathering strategies to find information in the domain of human lifespan development.	Employs limited information-gathering strategies, resulting in an insufficient representation of information in the domain of human lifespan development.	Uses appropriate information-gathering strategies to find information in the domain of human lifespan development.	The use of comprehensive information-gathering techniques yields a thorough assortment of scholarly information in the domain of human lifespan development.
Identify the important theories, paradigms, research findings, and conclusions appropriate to the field of lifespan development. 20%	Fails to identify the important theories, paradigms, research findings, and conclusions appropriate to the field of lifespan development.	Lists theories, paradigms, research findings, and conclusions appropriate to the field of lifespan development.	Identifies the important theories, paradigms, research findings, and conclusions appropriate to the field of lifespan development.	Explains and evaluates the important theories, paradigms, research findings, and conclusions appropriate to the field of lifespan development.
Identify the different research methods frequently used in the study of lifespan development. 20%	Fails to identify the different research methods frequently used in the study of lifespan development.	Identifies limited or unvalidated research methods used in the study of lifespan development.	Identifies the different research methods frequently used in the study of lifespan development.	Integrates and evaluates different research methods frequently used in the study of lifespan development.
Identify personal and professional goals related to the study of human lifespan development. 20%	Fails to identify personal and professional goals related to the study of human lifespan development.	Identifies limited personal and professional goals related to the study of human lifespan development.	Identifies personal and professional goals related to the study of human lifespan development.	The personal and professional goals identified indicate a high level of professional self-awareness as well as a thorough grasp of the subject matter related to lifespan development.

Criteria	Non-performance	Basic	Proficient	Distinguished
Use well-developed written communication. 10%	Unable to write in a scholarly fashion.	Written communication is adequate but has errors and inconsistencies.	Written communication is proficient with only minor errors in punctuation, spelling, grammar, or mechanics.	Uses well-developed written communication by writing in a manner that is generally concise, is logically organized, and utilizes correct punctuation, spelling, grammar, and mechanics.
Successfully implement APA style. 10%	Fails to demonstrate the ability to use APA in the scholarly writing of papers.	Written communication is adequate but has some APA errors and inconsistencies.	Written communication is proficient with only minor APA errors and inconsistencies.	Applies scholarly writing skills and uses proper APA formatting and style in all papers and reference lists.

Project Components

Project Component	Course Grade Weight	Unit Due
Informational Interview or Topic Selection	5%	3
Reference List or Needs Assessment Part 1	10%	4
Interview Synopsis or Needs Assessment Part 2	10%	7
Lifespan Development Project or Paper	25%	9
Total:	**50%**	

[u03a1] Unit 3 Assignment 1

INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW OR TOPIC SELECTION

Submit your Unit 3 assignment here, based on the option you chose for your project. Refer to the course project description for information about this assignment.

Be sure to review the Informational Interview or Topic Selection Scoring Guide to understand how you will be graded.

Note: Your instructor may also use the Writing Feedback Tool to provide feedback on your writing. In the tool, click the linked resources for helpful writing information.

Resources

- Informational Interview or Topic Selection Scoring Guide.
- Capella Undergraduate Online Writing Center – APA Style and Format.
- The Informational Interview Process.
- Informational Interviewing.
- Writing Feedback Tool.
- Turnitin.
- PSYC3210 APA Guidelines

[u04a1] Unit 4 Assignment 1

REFERENCE LIST OR NEEDS ASSESSMENT PART 1

Submit your Unit 4 assignment here, based on the option you chose for your project. Refer to the course project description for information about this assignment.

Be sure to review the Informational Interview or Topic Selection Scoring Guide to understand how you will be graded.

Note: Your instructor may also use the Writing Feedback Tool to provide feedback on your writing. In the tool, click the linked resources for helpful writing information.

Resources

- ☑ Reference List or Needs Assessment Part 1 Scoring Guide.
- ▣ Capella Undergraduate Online Writing Center – APA Style and Format.
- ▣ RefWorks.
- ▣ Writing Feedback Tool
- ▣ APA Style Paper Template.
- ▣ Turnitin.
- ⬚ PSYC3210 APA Guidelines

[u07a1] Unit 7 Assignment 1

INTERVIEW SYNOPSIS OR NEEDS ASSESSMENT PART 2

Submit your Unit 7 assignment here, based on the option you chose for your project. Refer to the course project description for information about this assignment.

Be sure to review the Informational Interview or Topic Selection Scoring Guide to understand how you will be graded.

Note: Your instructor may also use the Writing Feedback Tool to provide feedback on your writing. In the tool, click the linked resources for helpful writing information.

Resources

- ☑ Interview Synopsis or Needs Assessment Part 2 Scoring Guide.
- ▣ Capella Undergraduate Online Writing Center – APA Style and Format.
- ▣ Writing Feedback Tool.
- ▣ APA Style Paper Template.
- ▣ Turnitin.
- ⬚ PSYC3210 APA Guidelines

[u09a1] Unit 9 Assignment 1

LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OR PAPER

Submit your Unit 3 assignment here, based on the option you chose for your project. Refer to the course project description for information about this assignment.

Be sure to review the Informational Interview or Topic Selection Scoring Guide to understand how you will be graded.

Note: Your instructor may also use the Writing Feedback Tool to provide feedback on your

Resources

- ☑ Lifespan Development Project or Paper Scoring Guide.
- ▣ iGuide: ePortfolio.
- ▣ Smarthinking.
- ▣ Capella Undergraduate Online Writing Center – APA Style and Format.

writing. In the tool, click the linked resources for helpful writing information.

- Writing Feedback Tool.
- APA Style Paper Template.
- Turnitin.
- PSYC3210 APA Guidelines