



Gentle  
Persuasive  
Approaches



## **Niagara College adds Gentle Persuasive Approaches (GPA) dementia education to its Practical Nursing & Community Mental Health programs.**

**HAMILTON, ONTARIO, October 2021** — Advanced Gerontological Education (AGE) Inc. is extremely pleased to announce that **Niagara College Canada** has added GPA eLearning to its curriculum for students in the both the Practical Nursing program and its Community Mental Health Programs. GPA Basics was already part of the curriculum for the Personal Support Workers (PSW) program and the Gerontology Grad-Certification program at the college. Niagara College has been offering GPA to students since 2012.

Angela Butt (MN, RN), Associate Dean at Niagara College Canada and a GPA Certified Coach, has long been a supporter of dementia education for healthcare students:

*“Because dementia-related behaviours and other diseases that manifest in responsive behaviours are so prevalent in healthcare — regardless of the sector — we feel it is critical that as many people learn GPA as possible. Not only do we want our graduates to be skilled in assisting clients with their physical needs, but we also want them to be skilled in fulfilling clients’ mental, psychosocial and emotional health needs as well. The person-centred approach of providing care with dignity and compassion is intrinsic to GPA and is one way we facilitate students in developing these skills. The GPA in-person classroom format — GPA Basics — was already part of the curriculum in our PSW and Gerontology Grad-Certification programs and it has always been well-received by the students.*

*The advent of COVID-19 and not being able to have students on-campus was the impetus for us moving to GPA eLearning (online learning). Although I miss the in-person interaction with the students, the online version has allowed us to include GPA in the curriculum for our Practical Nursing and Community Mental Health Programs too. This means that about 250 students are learning about GPA every term, i.e., 750 students per year at Niagara College. When we were only able to offer it to our PSW and Gerontology students, we were only reaching 240 students per year.*

*We are so grateful to the team at AGE Inc. for their constant work on maintaining a robust, up-to-date certification.”*

Niagara College has received excellent feedback from students when circulating the post-session GPA evaluations in the back of the GPA Basics manual:

- ***“I really value this program; it has made me love my course even more.”***
- ***“Awesome session. Very informative and practical!”***
- ***“I feel more confident [after taking GPA].”***
- ***“I will use GPA’s validation therapy in my work environment.”***
- ***“This GPA program will be really helpful in providing quality care for my patients.”***

[Read testimonials to GPA from students, instructors and healthcare employees across Canada, here.](#)

**GPA is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition.** While some things can be put on hold during a pandemic, dementia education is not one of them. In 2020, in close collaboration with stakeholders, the AGE Team moved quickly to develop, trial and evaluate virtual options for GPA formats, including virtual GPA CC Workshop training. We’re pleased to report that the new virtual world of GPA has met the urgent needs of our stakeholders and is growing in popularity, even as pandemic protocols are gradually being relaxed to allow *in-person* sessions and workshops again.

AGE Executive Director, April Morganti, reflected on the past year:

*“Long-time supporters of GPA, like Angela and her employer Niagara College Canada, understand the importance of dementia education for healthcare students. They work tirelessly to ensure that each graduating year is equipped with the skills, knowledge and confidence they will need in a career working with older Canadians. As dementia diagnoses continue to rise, we are forever grateful for their forward thinking. But perhaps never more so than over the past 18 months when physical distancing protocols put a halt to our in-person dementia education. Partners like Angela and Niagara College insisted that the learning continue. They were willing to innovate and adapt to ensure it did. Our gratitude to them is immense.”*

There is more than one way to do GPA and AGE Inc. is well prepared for the arrival of the highly virtual post-pandemic world. GPA virtual formats are here to stay.

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## ABOUT

**Advanced Gerontological Education (AGE) Inc.** is a national not-for-profit social enterprise that develops and delivers dementia care education. Our practical, evidence-informed Gentle Persuasive Approaches (GPA) curriculum has given more than 500,000 Canadian care providers the knowledge, skills and confidence they need for working with older Canadians living with dementia. [Watch our video](#) and [Learn more about our virtual GPA formats](#). [www.ageinc.ca](http://www.ageinc.ca)

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**Niagara College** offers more than 130 diploma, bachelor-degree and advanced level programs; as well as more than 600 credit, vocational and general interest Part-Time Studies courses. Areas of specialization include food and wine sciences, advanced technology, media, applied health and community safety, supported by unique learning enterprises in food, wine, beer, distilling, horticulture and esthetics. For more information visit [niagaracollege.ca](http://niagaracollege.ca).

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