INSTRUCTIONS 4.2 Assignment: Training - Using Clinical Measures with Alzheimer’s disease

**Getting Started**

In this workshop, you will be learning how to assess cognitive processes specific to dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. The Mini-Cog© is a 3-minute screening tool that is similar to the MMSE you used in Workshop One but is specific for detecting cognitive impairment in older adults. Another dementia screening tool you will be learning is from the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center (VAMC) called the *Saint Louis University Mental Status (SLUMS)*examination.

Cognitive impairment and dementia reflect impaired brain function and are often unrecognized until a crisis develops. The brain is the only vital organ that is not routinely assessed in clinical practice, yet good brain function is essential for clinician-patient partnership. The causes of cognitive impairment and dementia can be primary brain diseases (most commonly Alzheimer’s disease, ischemic vascular disease, and conditions related to Parkinson’s disease) or secondary effects of systemic diseases, medications, and other conditions. Many chronic medical disorders, including diabetes, kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and heart disease are associated with significant cognitive deficits that affect outcomes of treatment. People with cognitive impairment or dementia are often unaware of the extent or impact of their cognitive deficits and can look and act healthy in routine clinical encounters. Timely detection of cognitive impairment the first step to better management.

**Upon successful completion of this assignment, you will be able to:**

* Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data (PLO 7).



**Background Information**

In this workshop, you will be writing a Summary paper after watching videos of an older woman named Colleen who is administered the Mini-Cog screening tool, which she fails, and is then administered the *Saint Louis University Mental Status (SLUMS)*examination. You will also watch a video of a Clinical Social Worker counseling with Colleen and her daughter after being given the diagnosis of Alzheimer’s type Dementia.

Finally, you will be taking training on Understanding Alzheimer’s and Dementia that is offered for free by the Alzheimer’s Association.



**Instructions**

1. Review the rubric to make sure you understand the criteria for earning your grade.
2. Read Chapter 15 on “Alzheimer’s Disease” of the textbook: *Mental Health in Social Work.*
3. Read the chapter on “Neurocognitive Disorders” in the *DSM-5* (specifically pages 591-595 & 611-614).
4. Review the website [Mini-Cog©](https://mini-cog.com/).
5. Watch the video of Colleen’s [Mini-Cog Administration](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeCFtuD41WY). Use the PDF [Mini-Cog Instructions for Administering and Scoring](https://brightspace.indwes.edu/content/enforced/157695-3WI2022SWK-650-01ET;SWK-650-01EK/Workshop%20Four/Directions%20for%20Mini-Cog.pdf?_&d2lSessionVal=UcDxmhr5yUST3SibzEnATLtxb&ou=157695) to document the results of the screening while watching the video.
6. Watch the video of Colleen’s second cognitive screening exam using the [St. Louis University Mental Status (SLUMS) Administration](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyp0ShPiUH8). Use the PDF [SLUMS with Directions](https://brightspace.indwes.edu/content/enforced/157695-3WI2022SWK-650-01ET;SWK-650-01EK/Workshop%20Four/SLUMS_with_Instructions.pdf?_&d2lSessionVal=UcDxmhr5yUST3SibzEnATLtxb&ou=157695) to document the results of the screening while watching the video. Assume the day, year and state are reported correctly (the first three items asked on the SLUMS).
7. Watch the video [Counseling After an Alzheimer’s Diagnosis](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Kxj-5Ezlzw) demonstrating Colleen’s family counseling session with a Clinical Social Worker.
8. **Part 1 – Summary**: For this assignment discuss the following in a one-page Summary paper:
   1. Looking at the results of videos of Colleen’s two screenings, match the results with the *DSM-5* criteria for Alzheimer’s disease. What criteria did Colleen meet to justify the diagnosis? After reviewing the family session that was conducted by the Clinical Social Worker, discuss the following:
      1. What strengths did the social worker identify in the family?
      2. What activities did the social worker encourage to help keep Colleen safe?
      3. What additional recommendations could you add (must state at least one) and why?