

Appendix: Item-Level Geriatric Nursing Competence Scores (Mean \pm SD)

First-level items	Second-level items	Tertiary Item	Score
Professional Competence	Legal and Ethical Knowledge	1) I am familiar with the relevant laws and regulations concerning elderly care and implement nursing practices in accordance with these requirements.	1.98 \pm 1.13
		2) I am able to promptly identify existing or potential cases of elder abuse among patients.	2.12 \pm 1.09
		3) I am knowledgeable about the ethical principles of elder care and apply them in nursing practice.	2.13 \pm 1.05
		4) I am able to maintain the privacy of elderly patients in clinical practice.	2.87 \pm 1.06
		5) I respect the cultural, religious beliefs, values, and lifestyle of elderly patients.	2.88 \pm 1.04
		6) I respect the rights of elderly patients and their families to make self-determined choices and decisions.	2.88 \pm 1.04
	Critical Thinking	7) I possess reflective and critical thinking skills, enabling me to identify existing or potential health issues in elderly patients.	2.51 \pm 1.01
		8) I am able to analyze issues based on the age-related characteristics and individual differences of elderly patients, and prioritize these issues accordingly.	2.46 \pm 1.02
		9) I am capable of applying dialectical thinking based on professional knowledge and work experience to select the optimal solution for clinical problems.	2.47 \pm 1.00
	Professional Knowledge	10) I possess knowledge of geriatric medicine and am able to distinguish between normal aging and disease. I am familiar with the characteristics of diseases in the aging process and the complexities involved in their treatment.	2.32 \pm 1.02
		11) I am aware of the risk of complications in elderly patients caused by diseases, such as delirium, pressure injuries, infections, aspiration, and malnutrition.	2.39 \pm 1.01
Professional Practice Competence	Clinical Practice	12) I am able to conduct comprehensive assessments and identify geriatric syndromes, common health issues (such as frailty, cognitive impairment, sleep disturbances, eating difficulties, incontinence, falls, and pain), as well as other risk factors.	2.42 \pm 1.01
		13) I am capable of accurately utilizing standardized assessment tools and physical examination methods to evaluate the physiological, psychological, social, cognitive, and environmental conditions of elderly patients.	2.36 \pm 1.02
		14) I am able to develop individualized care plans based on the results of comprehensive geriatric assessments, with the goal of maximizing or improving the functional status of elderly patients while addressing their specific needs.	2.33 \pm 1.02
		15) I am capable of implementing safe, comprehensive, and effective nursing interventions in accordance with the care plan to improve the health outcomes of elderly patients.	2.38 \pm 1.00
		16) I am able to dynamically assess the effectiveness of treatment and nursing interventions using scientific indicators and make timely adjustments to the care plan for elderly patients.	2.33 \pm 1.03
		17) I am able to recognize both typical and atypical manifestations of acute and critical conditions in elderly patients, and I am capable of promptly managing and providing life-saving interventions.	2.34 \pm 1.00
		18) I am able to identify both typical and atypical manifestations of chronic diseases in elderly patients and provide timely interventions and management.	2.32 \pm 1.02

		19) I am capable of providing end-of-life care and palliative treatment for elderly patients with terminal illnesses, ensuring the delivery of compassionate, pain-free, and peaceful care to maximize their comfort and dignity.	2.29 ± 1.01
		20) I am capable of providing comprehensive and continuous follow-up for complex cases, delivering individualized case management and nursing care.	2.23 ± 1.05
		21) I am capable of performing fundamental and specialized nursing procedures tailored to the specific needs and characteristics of elderly patients.	2.37 ± 0.99
		22) I am able to complete nursing documentation objectively, promptly, accurately, and comprehensively, while ensuring quality control.	2.47 ± 0.98
Safety Management		23) I am able to promptly identify both existing and potential safety risks in elderly patients and implement appropriate preventive measures.	2.44 ± 0.97
		24) I am proficient in the fundamental principles and precautions for medication administration in elderly patients. I provide guidance on the safe and rational use of medications for older adults, closely monitor therapeutic effects, and communicate effectively with physicians.	2.4 ± 0.98
		25) I am proficient in the fundamental principles and precautions for medication administration in elderly patients. I provide guidance on the safe and rational use of medications for older adults, closely monitor therapeutic effects, and communicate effectively with physicians.	2.38 ± 1.00
Communication and Consultation		26) I am skilled in utilizing effective communication techniques to engage with elderly patients, their families, and caregivers, fostering a positive therapeutic relationship.	2.47 ± 1.00
		27) I effectively utilize communication skills to express care and comfort, providing emotional and informational support to elderly patients and their families during challenging situations.	2.43 ± 1.00
		28) I am able to develop tailored health guidance plans based on the abilities and health knowledge needs of elderly patients, their families, and caregivers, ensuring the effective implementation of the care plan.	2.38 ± 1.00
		29) I am capable of gathering health-related information from multiple sources and, based on changes in sensory, cognitive, and other aging-related factors, I employ a variety of methods to provide health counseling and guidance to elderly patients and their families.	2.38 ± 1.01
		30) I am able to assist elderly patients in managing their health, encouraging them to modify health-harming behaviors, and supporting them in achieving the desired outcomes during treatment and rehabilitation processes.	2.33 ± 0.99
Professional Development Competence	Quality Management	31) I am able to provide high-quality care to elderly patients by applying evidence-based practices and utilizing quality improvement methods.	2.35 ± 1.02
		32) I am able to utilize quality management tools to continuously monitor and assess the overall care quality for elderly patients.	2.31 ± 1.03
	Leadership and Education	33) I am able to adopt a patient-centered approach for elderly patients, fostering multidisciplinary collaboration and creating an atmosphere of teamwork.	2.29 ± 1.05
		34) I am capable of contributing to the advancement of the geriatrics nursing discipline within my institution and advocating for the health needs of elderly patients in the fields of geriatric medicine and nursing.	2.3 ± 1.03
		35) I am capable of facilitating elderly patients and their families in maximizing the access to and utilization of social resources.	2.28 ± 1.02
		36) I am able to anticipate the potential impact of future changes and, when driving nursing reforms, am willing to accept reasonable potential risks,	2.22 ± 1.03

	maintaining an open attitude toward innovation.	
	37) I am capable of providing training in geriatric nursing skills and knowledge to junior nurses, geriatric care assistants, and other relevant personnel.	2.25 ± 1.05
	38) I am capable of developing and implementing a well-structured training program for geriatric care professionals, and objectively evaluating the effectiveness of the training.	2.24 ± 1.05
Professional Learning	39) I am capable of staying updated on the latest developments in geriatric nursing, identifying emerging issues in elderly care, and initiating research to address these challenges.	2.25 ± 1.02
	40) I possess the ability to utilize various learning resources, including professional books, literature searches, online platforms, and academic exchanges, to continuously enhance my knowledge and expertise.	2.29 ± 1.05
Research Innovation	41) I am able to summarize geriatric nursing experiences, identify issues in geriatric care, and initiate nursing research to address these challenges.	2.19 ± 1.07
	42) I am capable of integrating research findings with clinical practice, identifying and applying the best available evidence to guide clinical decision-making, and conducting outcome evaluations.	2.21 ± 1.08
	43) I am capable of actively developing new technologies and nursing products for geriatric care.	2.04 ± 1.14