

An Introduction to Low Vision Rehabilitation: First Response Interventions for Older Adults

Syllabus for all four courses in the series.

Instructor:

Dr. Stephen G. Whittaker, Ph.D., OTR/L, CLVT

Suggested Audience:

This seminar is designed for therapists (occupational, speech, physical therapists) who work with older adults.

Course Descriptions:

In four courses, the student will learn how to evaluate and provide “first response” rehabilitation interventions for visual impairment. “First response” interventions are interventions that maximize vision, or compensate for vision loss using resources available in acute, sub-acute or home-care rehabilitation services. These courses provide practical and immediately applicable information as well as a solid starting point for those who wish to specialize in low vision rehabilitation. The presentation will involve an interactive power point presentation, richly illustrated with graphic and video demonstration where you view the world through the eyes of people with different types of vision impairment. Participants will apply techniques using videos of real patients. In our interviews with two people with vision impairment you will discover how well people can function with the right education and rehabilitation. **Courses may be taken separately. It is highly recommended that all four courses be taken in sequence.** If the student enrolls in a 4 course package, certification of completion will be issued for each course when completed.

AOTA credits:

Beginner level : AOTA credits vary 1-2 hrs per course- see course descriptions.

Online Course materials provided:

- ***The Vision Evaluation Handbook*** that includes detailed description of evaluation procedures, first response interventions and where materials can be purchased, copies of as well as references.
- ***Educational handouts for clients*** for patients with instructions for sighted guide, glare, magnification, and compensatory scanning for field restrictions. These also provide a simple summary of interventions for the therapist. **These are included in the Vision Evaluation Handbook.**
- ***Vision evaluation forms.*** These forms may be customized to your institution to provide efficient documentation, and guide the reasoning process.
- ***A print version of the course lectures.***
- ***A glossary of vision terms***

Required Materials:

FRAST (www.visionsimulators.com), laser pointer, 300 lumen flashlight (total about \$50)

Learning Objectives:	<p>Course 1: Screening for Vision Disability (2 hrs, 0.2 AOTA CEU)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name six different types of visual impairments, common pathologies and performance signs associated with each type of impairment that may be used to screen for vision disability,• Describe how to avoid disability from normal age-related vision loss.• Describe signs and symptoms that require immediate referral to an optometrist or ophthalmologist.• Perform sighted-guide technique for aided mobility. <p>Course 2: Evaluation and Interventions Part 1 (2 hrs, 0.2 AOTA CEU)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate 3 of 5 sensory (pre-cortical) vision impairments, impaired visual acuity, contrast sensitivity and central field loss and• Choose "First Response" Interventions" for each of these impairments. <p>Course 3: Evaluation and Interventions Part II (3 hrs, 0.3 AOTA CEU)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate 2 of 5 vision impairments, impaired visual fields, and eye movements.• Choose "First Response" Interventions" for each of these impairments.• Advanced interventions for field loss and neglect including laser tag and documentation• Overview types of perceptual impairment and interventions including visual neglect. <p>Course 4: Beyond the First Response (1 hr, 0.1 AOTA CEU)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define "visual impairment", "low vision" and "blindness" in terms of eligibility for services that provide low vision rehabilitation.• Name organizations and other professionals involved in low vision and blindness rehabilitation services to whom people with low vision should be referred,• Describe expected outcomes from advanced low vision or blindness services.• Describe how a therapist might obtain advanced certification as a low vision rehabilitation specialist.
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Grouped courses and the seminar version.

Courses have been grouped and discounted to encourage students to complete all four as was originally intended. The seminar version is offered to provide the opportunity to add live interaction to the course. In the seminar version, students meet to discuss cases presented in the Courses 2 and 3 workshops. The examination includes questions about these specific cases. However, examinations must be taken individually for credit. We also recommend that seminar leaders who have some training in low vision rehabilitation lead these seminars, although this is not necessary. Please contact swhittaker@visionedseminars.com for study materials for the seminar (no extra charge).

About the presenter:

Steve Whittaker was a practicing occupational therapist and certified low vision therapist at MossRehab in Philadelphia. Steve has been involved in low vision rehabilitation for over 40 years as a researcher, educator and practitioner. He served as member of the low vision expert committee of the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (www.ACVREP.com). He has numerous scientific publications, has received grants from The National Eye Institute, NASA and lectures internationally. With a doctorate in experimental psychology and post-doctoral training in visual neurophysiology, Dr Whittaker began researching eye movement anomalies associated with macular degeneration at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (now Salus University) where he served as a researcher and educator for 20 years. His book, Whittaker, SG, Scheiman, M, Sokol-McKay, D. *Low Vision Rehabilitation: A Practical Guide for Occupational Therapists* (Slack, 2016) still describes the state of the art in evidence-based practice. His Webinar Series has been used for several years as the core curriculum for the new therapists from VisionLoss Rehabilitation/ CNIB in Canada . Search: *Stephen G. Whittaker*

Continuing Education Credits

The assignment of CE credits is as follows. Note that continuing education credit is awarded only if the examinations are passed at an 80% or higher level and the course evaluation is completed. Exams may be retaken. CEU's are awarded on the basis of the observed amount of time usually required to complete the course including time for the "pause and reflect" quizzes and exams. In packages where multiple courses are offered, certification of completion is assigned when each course is completed.

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| 1. Course 1 presentation, quizzes and exam | 2 Hrs. (0.2 AOTA CEU) |
| 2. Course 2 presentation, quizzes and exam | 2 Hrs. (0.2 AOTA CEU) |
| 3. Course 3 presentation, quizzes and exam | 3 Hrs. (0.3 AOTA CEU) |
| 4. Course 4 presentation, quizzes and exam | 1 Hr. (0.1 AOTA CEU) |

TOTAL----- 8 hours (0.8 AOTA CEU)

Limited Guarantee

For courses paid for by individuals.

The student may request a refund for this course for any reason. The full cost will be refunded.

This guarantee is limited to 30 days from the time of course registration. If a student completes and submits an examination the guarantee expires and no refund is possible.

The student is required to submit a course evaluation in order to receive a refund.

Note: Students may view any the lecture materials and supporting documentation prior to taking an examination.

For all enrollees...

A full refund for the individual will be provided for the following conditions:

1. If at any time the student finds the course unacceptable because it cannot be easily accessed due to disability, a full refund will be provided.
2. If the material is removed and can no longer be accessed within 3 months of course registration a full refund will be provided.

ADA Compliance

The slides and video are currently fully described by the narrative. A written script of the entire course is currently available by special request. The tests and narrative in document format are accessible for people using a screen reader- these will be emailed upon request. Please email the presenter (visionedseminars@verizon.net) for the latest update.

* Disclosure of potential conflict of interest: Stephen Whittaker may receive royalties from one assessment instrument (the wands) and a publication described in this course. With all publications and instruments that produce royalties to Dr. Whittaker, alternative available assessment techniques and instruments have been presented.