Rebecca Davis, R.N., Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Aging: Best Practices Center of Distinction

Scholarly Focus and Projects

Rebecca Davis is an associate professor at the Kirkhof College of Nursing at Grand Valley State University. Dr. Davis's teaching expertise is on the care of the older adult. Upon coming to the university in 2001, Dr. Davis was a part of a team that wrote and received a grant from the John. A. Hartford Foundation and the AACN in order to improve the gerontology content in the nursing curriculum. Dr. Davis’s program of research has been on cognition and aging, with a focus on improving the cognitive functioning of older adults in order to maintain independence. Dr. Davis was awarded a Claire M. Fagin Fellowship from the American Academy of Nursing and the John A. Hartford Foundation in 2007-2009. This fellowship supported her research, which examined how color and familiarity can be used as cues in environments to help maintain orientation in older people. The goal of this research is to improve built environments, such as nursing homes and assisted living residences, so that they are more usable and helpful for older people. Her current work extends experiments using salient visual cues to help people with dementia maintain orientation.

Selected Recent Publications:


