

PART THREE

SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN INTERVIEWING

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CROSS-CULTURAL INTERVIEWING

WHILE CULTURAL COMPETENCE has many definitions, in this chapter we use the definition that has been most widely accepted in social work and other counseling professions (Sue and Sue 2008). According to this definition, cultural competence is comprised of three components:

1. Culturally competent self-awareness/attitudes: awareness of biases, assumptions, and personal values that may negatively influence interactions with, and perceptions of, diverse clients.
2. Culturally competent knowledge: an understanding of the worldview and the social and political context in which the culturally diverse client lives.
3. Culturally competent skills: culturally informed skill in the use of interview responses and treatment modalities.

In the remainder of this chapter, these three elements will be discussed as they apply to the social work interview with racial/ethnic, sexual minority, and elderly clients (Sue and Sue 2008). The topic of religion and spirituality is discussed as it applies to the older adult. For an extended discussion of this topic, Edward Canda and Leola Dryud Furman's book *Spiritual Diversity in Social Work Practice: The Heart of Helping* is highly recommended.

RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITY DIFFERENCES

Population projections for the United States indicate a decline in the proportion of non-Hispanic Whites and an increase in Asian Americans, Hispanic/