

GERONTOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OFFICE

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Programs Offered

Minor in Gerontology

Certificate in Gerontology

The study of gerontology provides students with a broad, multidisciplinary perspective to examine the aging process and to understand the significance of age in biological, social, cultural, psychological, and political processes. Participation in the gerontology program encourages students to view aging as a normal part of the life cycle, to become aware of the aging process so that they may view it in others with understanding, and eventually in themselves with equanimity, and to consider work in the field of aging.

Careers in Gerontology

Gerontology prepares students for working directly with elders in program development (health promotion, intergenerational activities, social service centers, community agencies, and retirement communities); direct care (care to frail, ill, or impaired elders in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, adult day care, or home care programs); counseling elders and their families about caregiving issues, employment, death and dying, or mental health; and advising elders about estate planning and investments, financing long-term care, or housing options. It also prepares students for working on behalf of elders, by analyzing issues related to elders such as retirement opportunities, income maintenance, health care and housing; planning, administering, and evaluating community-based services and service delivery systems for older persons; advocating with or on behalf of elders; designing products to meet the special interests and needs of elders; and advising business, industry, and labor regarding older workers and consumers. Many students continue their education through graduate work in social work, nursing, psychology, and kinesiology.

The gerontology program focuses primarily upon the experience of aging in the United States, although comparative analyses of other societies are developed. By applying an integrated liberal arts perspective to the issues, problems, and dilemmas posed by a longer life span and a dramatically increased population of older persons, students develop their critical faculties and problem-solving abilities.

The field of gerontology offers students opportunities to engage in firsthand research, to develop conceptual analyses, and to plan community projects, as well as to develop a strong background for career development. Those who already work as volunteers or staff in agencies serving the elderly will find the gerontology program valuable in updating their training. Students who plan to pursue professional degrees in psychotherapy, medicine, dentistry, nursing, or social work will find that participation in the gerontology program will assist them in understanding the problems of their future clients. Students may choose to complete (1) the minor in gerontology or (2) a certificate in gerontology.

Minor in Gerontology

Students must complete the following 22-unit program:

Minor Core Requirements

BIOL 318 Biology of Aging	3
GERN 300 The Journey of Adulthood	3
GERN/SOCI 319 Aging and Society or GERN 499 Gerontology Practicum	4
GERN/PSY 421 Psychology of Aging	4
Total units in the minor core	14

Minor Electives

Choose courses to total a minimum of 8 units from the following list.*

BIOL 224 Human Physiology	3
GERN/SOCI 317 Emotions and Adult Life	4
GERN/SOCI 332 Death and American Culture	4
GERN/PSY 408 Transitions in Adult Development	4
GERN/PSY 422 Living and Dying	4
KIN 410 Lifespan Motor Development	3
PSY 358 Health Psychology	4
SOCI 461 Social Welfare and Social Work	4
SOCI 365 Human Services Administration	4
SOCI 381 Population and Society	4
Total units in minor electives	8
Total units in the minor	22

* With advisor approval, substitution of an appropriate internship done through another department is allowed.

Certificate in Gerontology

The 28-unit certificate program is open to those students who are completing or who have received a bachelor's degree.

Certificate Core Courses

BIOL 318 Biology of Aging	3
GERN 300 The Journey of Adulthood	3
GERN 319 Aging and Society	4
GERN 499 Gerontology Practicum	8
GERN 421 Psychology of Aging	4
Total units in the certificate core	22

Certificate Electives

Choose courses to total a minimum of 6 units from the list below.

BIOL 224 Human Physiology	3
GERN/SOCI 317 Emotions and Adult Life	4
GERN/SOCI 332 Death and American Culture	4
GERN/PSY 408 Transitions in Adult Development	4
GERN/PSY 422 Living and Dying	4
KIN 410 Lifespan Motor Development	3
PSY 358 Health Psychology	4
SOCI 461 Social Welfare and Social Work	4
SOCI 365 Human Services Administration	4
SOCI 381 Population and Society	4
Total units in the certificate electives	6
Total units in the certificate	28