

GERONTOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OFFICE

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INTERIM PROGRAM ADVISOR

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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

Minor Core Requirements

BIOL 318 Biology of Aging (GE E)	3
GERN 300 The Journey of Adulthood (GE E)	3
PSY**/GERN 412 Psychology of Aging	4
SOCI/GERN 319 Aging and Society (GE D1) or GERN 499 Gerontology Practicum	4
Total units in the minor	14

Minor Electives

*Choose courses to total a minimum of 8 units from the following list or as approved by an advisor.**

BIOL 224 Human Physiology (GE B3, Lab)	3
KIN 410 Lifespan Motor Development	4
PSY 358 Health Psychology**	4
PSY**/GERN 408 Transitions in Adult Development	4
PSY**/GERN 422 Living and Dying	4
SOCI/GERN 317 Emotions and Adult Life (GE E)	4
SOCI***/GERN 332 Death and American Culture	4
SOCI 347 Social Stratification ***	4
SOCI 365 Human Services Administration***	4
SOCI 381 Population and Society***	4
SOCI 417 Sociology of Mental Health and Illness***	4
SOCI 452 Health Care, Illness, and Society***	4
SOCI 460 Social Work in the Social World***	4
SOCI 461 Social Welfare and Social Work***	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.

** Typically open to Psychology majors only.

*** Typically open to Sociology majors and minors only, but see department chair.

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 Requirements

BIOL 318 Biology of Aging (GE E)	3
GERN 300 The Journey of Adulthood (GE E)	3
GERN 499 Gerontology Practicum	8
PSY**/GERN 421 Psychology of Aging	4
SOCI/GERN 319 Aging and Society (GE D1)	4
Total units in the certificate core	22

Certificate Electives

*Choose courses to total a minimum of 6 units from the following list or as approved by an advisor:**

BIOL 224 Human Physiology (GE B3, Lab)	3
KIN 410 Lifespan Motor Development	4
PSY 358 Health Psychology**	4
PSY**/GERN 408 Transitions in Adult Development	4
PSY**/GERN 422 Living and Dying	4
SOCI/GERN 317 Emotions and Adult Life (GE E)	4
SOCI***/ GERN 332 Death and American Culture	4
SOCI 347 Social Stratification ***	4
SOCI 365 Human Services Administration***	4
SOCI 381 Population and Society***	4
SOCI 417 Sociology of Mental Health and Illness***	4
SOCI 452 Health Care, Illness, and Society***	4
SOCI 460 Social Work in the Social World***	4
SOCI 461 Social Welfare and Social Work***	4
Total Minimum Units in Certificate Electives	6
Total Minimum Units in Certificate	28

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

*** Typically open to Psychology majors only.*

**** Typically open to Sociology majors and minors only, but see department chair.*