INTRODUCTION

Gerontology, the study of aging, is a multidisciplinary field that examines the biological, psychological, social and health/fitness aspects of the aging process. The unprecedented growth of the older population has created a growing demand for professionals in a variety of fields who understand issues related to the aging process.

Programs in Gerontology provide students with knowledge and critical understanding of the processes of adult development and aging. They prepare students for a variety of career opportunities in business, government, industry, public and private agencies, health and human services, research and education, and entrepreneurial endeavors. Many career options involve working with healthy and independent older adults, while other positions involve working with older adults who have health problems and other age-related limitations.

LEARNING GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following goals and learning outcomes have been established for students pursuing a Master’s Degree in Gerontology (MSG):

Understand relevant gerontology theories, concepts and research findings
- Describe and explain relevant theories, concepts and related research findings in physiological, psychological and social aspects of aging
- Be sensitive to the political, economic and cultural context and aging outcomes
- A life course perspective related to older adult development

Information literacy and research analysis skills
- Identify, access, analyze and synthesize relevant sources
- Critically analyze research studies
- Build a good foundation for doctoral study in gerontology

Communication skills
- Write in APA style and effectively take purpose and audience into account
- Make effective oral presentations, taking purpose and audience into account

Field-based practice and skills
- Develop competence in the involvement of service, implementation and administration of programs in a variety of settings that involve older people and their caregivers
- Exhibit knowledge of the purpose, structure and processes of community organizations and government agencies serving older adults, and demonstrate an ability to use that knowledge effectively to enhance the welfare of older populations
• Understand that needs in old age are multifaceted and may best be addressed from a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach
• Identify relevant ethical and legal issues and the impact of possible actions in real-world situations

RUBY GERONTOLOGY CENTER
The Charles L. and Rachael E. Ruby Gerontology Center serves as a forum for intellectual activity and creative scholarship in the area of gerontology. The center houses the activities of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, the Institute of Gerontology, and the Gerontology Academic Program.

The center’s goals include: promoting educational programs concerning adult development and aging; developing productive intergenerational activities in education and research; fostering cross-disciplinary research on topics related to aging and later life; providing opportunities for lifelong learning; and expanding opportunities for professional growth and development for those interested in gerontology.

Students are encouraged to become involved in research, conferences and community service activities of the Center.

MINOR IN GERONTOLOGY (21 UNITS)
Lower-Division Requirements (3 units)
GERO/HUSR/PSYC/SOCI 133 Introduction to Gerontology (3)*

Upper-Division Requirements (9 units from the following)
BIOL 306 Biology of Aging (3)*
KNES 454 Physical Dimensions of Aging (3)
PSYC 362 Psychology of Aging (3)*
SOCI 443 Sociology of Aging (3)

Required Internship (3 units)
One three-unit internship at the 300/400 level in a related field. An internship is a supervised experience working within the community. Internships are coordinated through the student’s major department.

Upper-Division Electives (6 units, adviser approved)
ANTH 308, 408, 417
BIOL 306, 311*
CAS 312*
FIN 411
HIST/GERO 493B
HESC 342*, 401, 440, 450
HCOM 320*, 345*
HUSR 310, 380*, 385, 400, 410, 420, 480
KNES 353*, 364, 371, 400, 454, 455
MGMT 435
MKTG 351
NURS 357
PHIL 314*, 448
PSYC 302, 303, 361, 362, 415, 474, 475
SOCI 351, 354*, 360*, 361*, 371*, 433, 443
WMST/GERO 410

Additional elective courses are available in selected departments across campus. Such additional electives are chosen in consultation with the major department adviser and with the approval of the Coordinator of Gerontology Program. Up to nine units of coursework may be applied to both the major and Gerontology minor.

* Meets General Education requirement.

MAJORS THAT COMPLEMENT THE MINOR IN GERONTOLOGY
The Gerontology minor is available and appropriate to strengthen and otherwise complement the coursework of students in many majors. Notation of the minor appears on the transcript and the diploma.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GERONTOLOGY (30 UNITS)
The Master of Science program combines training in both scientific and applied areas of gerontology. Because various departments across the university participate in the program, students are able to design a study plan that will meet their individual needs. In addition to coursework in research and theory, the program provides preparation for work in a variety of settings. It can also be tailored to meet the needs of the student who wants to prepare for a doctoral program.

Admission to Graduate Standing – Conditionally Classified
An applicant who meets the following requirements may be considered for conditionally classified graduate standing: a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution and a grade point average of at least 3.0 in the last 60 units attempted; submission of the formal application form; submission of two copies of transcripts from all institutions attended; three letters of recommendation; and a letter from the student stating professional objectives. A Gerontology Program Application form must be filed with the Gerontology Program Office.

The baccalaureate must be in gerontology or a related field in conjunction with an undergraduate minor, certificate or emphasis in gerontology or the equivalent. In the absence of the above, the student should ordinarily have the following 12 units of upper-division coursework in gerontology or their equivalent:
BIOL 306 Biology of Aging (3)
KNES 454 Physical Dimensions of Aging (3)
PSYC 362 Psychology of Aging (3)
SOCI 443 Sociology of Aging (3)
The following additional criteria may be taken into consideration: research experience; previous paid or volunteer experience in working with elderly people.

It may be possible for applicants who have minimal deficiencies in prerequisite requirements, as detailed above, but who are otherwise highly qualified, to be admitted in conditionally classified graduate standing, with provisions made for removal of deficiencies prior to granting classified standing. For further information, consult with the Gerontology Academic Program Coordinator.

Admissions to Graduate Standing – Classified

Each student, in consultation with the Program Coordinator, will develop a study plan. This will be outlined on an official university Study Plan Form. Students who have met the requirements for conditionally classified standing will be granted classified standing upon submission of an adviser-approved study plan to the Graduate Studies office.

Study Plan

The Master of Science in Gerontology requires a minimum of 21 units at the 500 level. Check the program website for updates and changes.

Required Core Courses (15 units)
GERO 500 Applied Gerontology (3)
GERO 501 Research Methods in Gerontology (3)
GERO 503 Aging and Public Policy (3)
GERO 535 Evaluation and Program Planning (3)
GERO 595 Gerontology Internship (3)

Gerontology Electives (6-9 units)

Multidisciplinary Electives (6-9 units)

Selected from two or more departments with the program coordinator’s approval:

Exit Option (0-3 units)*
GERO 598 Thesis (3)
OR GERO 597 Project (3)
OR Comprehensive Exam (0 units)

*If a project or thesis is not done, an additional three units of a GERO 500-level elective course and a comprehensive examination must be taken.

GERONTOLGY COURSES

Courses are designated as GERO in the class schedule.

133 Introduction to Gerontology (3)
(Same as HUSR/PSYC/SOCI 133)

410 Women, Health and Aging (3)
(Same as WMST 410)

420 Aging and Dementia (3)
Prerequisites: completion of General Education (G.E.) Category A; satisfies the upper-division writing requirement; PSYC 201 or SOCI 303 or equivalent; or classified graduate standing. Physiological, psychological, social, economic aspects of dementia; its impact on the individual, family and society, with an emphasis on Alzheimer’s disease. One or more sections offered online.

425 Successful Aging and Gerotechnology (3)
Prerequisites: Completion of G.E. Category A; SOCI/GERO 133 or classified graduate standing. Gerotechnology is the study of technology and aging. Impact of computer and internet, devices for sensory impairments, telehealth, smart home, automobile and transportation innovation on older adults, caregivers and society.

433 Aging and Social Services (3)
(Same as SOCI 433)

443 Sociology of Aging (3)
(Same as SOCI 443)

450 Applied Health Promotion in Aging Populations (3)
(Same as HESC 450)

493B Oral History/Guided Autobiography (3)
(Same as HIST 493B)

500 Applied Gerontology (3)
Prerequisite: graduate standing and/or admission into a master’s program. Graduate-level introduction to professional practice of gerontology. Emphasizes applying biopsychosocial content and theoretical models, research and ethics in practice, career path exploration and networking, and developing leadership skills and resources. One or more sections offered online. (Same as SOCI 500)

501 Research Methods in Gerontology (3)
Prerequisite: admission to M.S. in Gerontology. Research processes and problems in gerontology; more detailed study of applied research, including program evaluation in the field of gerontology.

503 Aging and Public Policy (3)
Prerequisites: GERO 500, SOCI 443, POSC 309 or 315 or classified graduate student status. Origin, development and overview of public policies affecting older persons, families and service providers. Political administrative, advocacy and private sector involvements in employment, retirement, income security, healthcare, social services and housing of older persons. May include a service learning component. (Same as POSC/SOCI 503)

504T Selected Topics in Gerontology (3)
Prerequisite: classified status in a master’s program. Detailed examination of a selected area of gerontology. Relevant literature and on the preparation, presentation (oral and written) and discussion of research papers. May be repeated once for credit with a different topic. (Same as SOCI 504T)
506 Economics of Aging (3)
Prerequisites: admission into the Gerontology M.S. Program or classified BAE status and GERO 501 or ECON 340. Economic consequences of population aging and the economic status of the aged. Income adequacy in old age: dependency, work income, retirement planning, social security, employer-sponsored pensions and financing health care. Economic security today and tomorrow. International comparisons. (Same as ECON 506)

507 Biopsychosocial Perspectives on Aging (3)
Prerequisite: classified graduate student status. Biological, psychological and social concepts of aging upon which professional practice in gerontology is based.

508 Social and Ethical Issues in Aging (3)
Prerequisite: graduate standing in Gerontology, Sociology or Public Health. Social and ethical issues facing an aging society. Ethical terminology, ethical decision-making and social implications of ethical issues related to such topics as nursing homes, caregiving, suicide and intergenerational equality. (Same as SOCI 508.)

525 Factors of Human Aging and Technology Design (3)
Prerequisite: graduate standing. The use of technology with older adults through a review of the demographics, biopsychosocial changes and social stigma associated with equipment aides; existing equipment and design/utilization alternatives.

526 Administration and Systems Management (3)
(Same as POSC 526)

527 Intergenerational Practice: Working with Aging Families (3)
Prerequisite: classified status in a master's program. The changing demography of American families; overview of processes in and structures of families with older adults; introduction to principles of marital and family therapy; and program and policy development for families in the middle and later years of life.

535 Program Planning and Evaluation (3)
(Same as HESC 535)

545 Nonprofit and Societal Marketing (3)
(Same as MKTG 545)

595 Gerontology Internship (3)
Prerequisites: classified status in the M.S. in Gerontology degree program and consent of instructor and Program Coordinator. Supervised experience in organizations that serve older adults and their families. May be repeated once for credit.

597 Project (3)
Prerequisites: classified status in the M.S. in Gerontology Program and consent of instructor and Program Coordinator. Under the direction of a faculty member, a topic that integrates learning in the program with an applied area of student interests will be selected and a major project on the topic will be developed and submitted.

598 Thesis (3)
Prerequisites: classified status in the M.S. in Gerontology degree program and consent of instructor and Program Coordinator. Individual research under supervision, reported in a thesis and defended successfully in an oral examination conducted by a faculty thesis committee.

599 Independent Study in Gerontology (1-3)
Prerequisites: completion of the M.S. in Gerontology core courses. Individualized study with an instructor whose recognized interests are in the area of the planned study. Conferences with the instructor as necessary; work will culminate in one or more papers. May be repeated once for credit.