

## Gerontology

Gerontology is the study of aging. Our nation's steadily increasing older population is creating a unique demand for well educated individuals to understand the field of aging and competent professionals to work with elders.

The Gerontology Program offers a minor and a certificate in gerontology. Both are designed to prepare students to address unmet and urgent needs in this rapidly developing field. Special majors can also be arranged for the student who wishes to concentrate on gerontology. The Gerontology Program attracts undergraduate students from all academic areas, reentry students, graduate students within social science and health professions, service providers, and elders seeking greater understanding of this stage of life.

The study of aging is based upon many important theories and concepts of aging, which are presented through an organized course of study. Core courses — gerontology and cross-listed interdisciplinary — are designed to present comprehensive biological, psychological, cultural and sociological theories related to the lifelong aging process. The influence of heritage, culture, and creativity are emphasized. The program presents information related to Healthy People 2010, services and resources; housing and environment; disabilities and rehabilitation; federal, state, and local agencies; and social policies and programs for elders.

Students have the opportunity to develop empathy for older adults as they explore communication and interaction with elders through community service, internships, and service learning. Current research findings are presented and research opportunities are available. There is an active student Gerontology Club.

### Program Responsibilities

The Gerontology Program is responsible for the Gerontology Minor, Gerontological Specialist Certificate, and a variety of activities and conferences on aging.

Other programs housed within the office of the Gerontology Program include the California Geriatric Education Center (CGEC) San Joaquin Valley Program — a statewide interdisciplinary center supported by a grant from the Bureau of Health Professions,

Public Health Service — providing educational offerings for health professionals and faculty; Elderhostel Program, the Fresno Learning Activities in Retirement (FLAIR), Friendly Visitor Services, and the Gerontology Education and Resource Center.

The Gerontology Program cosponsors the Gerontology Club, and offers continuing education for health professionals in cooperation with the Division of Extended Education.

### Career Opportunities

The development of employment opportunities in the field of gerontology has emerged in response to the needs of a steadily increasing older population. Many occupational roles are available in different sites. These include but are not limited to federal, state, county, and city agencies; senior centers, adult day care centers; long term care facilities, intermediate care facilities, acute care hospitals, medical centers; and senior housing sites, retirement communities, home health agencies, hospices, legislative bodies, and community planning agencies. New programs are developing in eldercare, case management, and consultation in business.

There is an increased recognition of the importance of designing and providing specialized programs in the private sector. Knowledgeable people work as consultants in banks, travel agencies, large corporations, insurance companies, educational agencies, publishing and broadcasting agencies, and department stores. The field is wide open for creative and innovative individuals.

### Gerontology Minor

The Minor in Gerontology (study of aging) is open to students in any major. It is designed to serve undergraduate majors in business; communicative sciences and disorders; child, family, and consumer sciences; health science; nursing; kinesiology; physical therapy; psychology; therapeutic recreation; social work; and sociology.

The minor consists of 15 semester units of credit. Students should register in the Gerontology Program Office and meet with the gerontology adviser if they plan to request a minor.

College of Health  
and Human Services

### Gerontology Program

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<http://www.csufresno.edu/gerontology>

### Minor in Gerontology

### Gerontological Specialist Certificate

<i>Gerontology Minor</i>	<i>Units</i>
<b>Required</b> .....	<b>9</b>
GERON 10 or 100 or 103; 140, 161	
<b>Electives</b> .....	<b>6*</b>
GERON 111, 115, 117, 125, 130, 132, 134, 139, 148, 180T, 190**	
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>15</b>

\* Other gerontology courses may be approved as alternatives with permission of a gerontology adviser.

\*\* Three units max.

*Note:* The Gerontology Minor also requires a 2.0 GPA and 6 upper-division units in residence.

A **Special Major** for those interested in gerontology may be designed. The process for this is initiated through the Office of Advising Services, (559) 278-2924, Joyal Administration, Room 121.

### Gerontological Specialist Certificate

The certificate will be awarded to students who complete a program of study consisting of 21 units of courses in gerontology. Students admitted to the program are expected to have had two years of college or two years of experience in the field of aging and some college courses.

Those who have completed the course of study may use the title "**Gerontological Specialist.**" The following list includes the recommended content areas in the field of aging to be covered: an introductory course

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in gerontology, social policy, multicultural aging, physiological aging, psychological aging, sociological issues, internship, and social services. Coursework must be completed with a *C* or better.

	<i>Units</i>
<b>Required</b> .....	<b>12</b>
GERON 100 or 103, 140, 161, 185	
<b>Electives</b> .....	<b>9*</b>
Select 9 units from: GERON 111, 115, 117, 125, 130, 132, 139 (formerly 180T), 148, 180T	
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>21</b>

\*Other gerontology courses may be approved as alternatives with permission of a gerontology adviser.

For further information, call or write:  
**Linda Hewett, Director**  
**Gerontology Program**  
**College of Health and Human Services**  
**5310 N. Campus Drive M/S PH103**  
**Fresno, CA 93740-8019**  
**(559) 278-8465**

## COURSES

### ***Gerontology (GERON)***

#### **10. The Journey of Adulthood (3)**

An introduction to gerontology; theories, concepts, perspectives, and research in the study of aging; psychological, physiological, and sociological changes; and cultural, ethnic and political issues. Intergenerational and multicultural activities. G.E. Breadth E1.

#### **18. Women and Aging (3)**

(See WS 18.) G.E. Breadth E1. (Formerly GERON 118)

#### **100. Images of Aging in Contemporary Society (3)**

Explores aging theories; multicultural portrayals of aging through art, literature, and media; examines generational/societal perceptions of aging. Develops awareness of competence in recognizing different images, and examines the influence of these images on societal/emotional status, resources and other elder issues.

#### **103. Maturity and Old Age (3)**

(See PSYCH 103.)

#### **111. Heritage and Aging (3)**

Aging is continual from birth to death. Events throughout a person's life coincide with dates of many different historical, cultural, and humanistic occurrences. Students explore the interrelationship of events to an elder's heritage, creativity, and potential for successful aging. G.E. Breadth E1.

#### **115. Health Issues of Aging (3)**

(See HS 115.)

#### **117. Resource Management of Aging (3)**

(See CSH 117.)

#### **125. Social Services for the Aging (3)**

(See SWRK 125.)

#### **130. Mental Health and Aging (1)**

Discusses the impact of mental disorders, especially Alzheimer's disease (AD) on older individuals and their caregivers. Covers diagnostic criteria and treatment modalities. Course is based on development theories, life course dynamics, and social psychology. (Formerly GERON 180T section)

#### **132. Alzheimer's Disease (1)**

Focuses on Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and other related dementias. Course will include a complete assessment, evaluation, and treatment of AD. (Formerly GERON 180T section)

#### **134. Caregiving/Home (2)**

Concepts, theories, and information about formal or informal caregiving. Latest research on caregiver stress and burden. Techniques for teaching the professional or family caregiver the correct methods to use to assess, provide, and evaluate care for frail homebound elders. (Formerly GERON 180T section)

#### **139. Death and Dying (2)**

Exploration of personal values and beliefs as well as diverse spiritual and cultural beliefs, groups regarding death, and its meaning for living. Practical matters surrounding death are also addressed. (Formerly GERON 180T)

#### **140. Social Policy and Aging (3)**

An introduction to policies, politics, and programs of an aging society. The course will examine the historical, social, cultural, economic, and demographic issues affecting the elderly and will provide an overview of federal and state legislation and programs for older Americans. (Formerly GERON 180T)

#### **148. Biophysical Aspects of Aging (3)**

(See KINES 148.)

#### **150. Communication and Aging (3)**

(See COMM 150.) (Formerly SPCH 188T section)

#### **161. Multiculture/Aging (3)**

Prerequisite: G.E. Foundation and Area D. Explores diversity and commonality among older persons. Analysis of ways demographic, ethnic, cultural, location, and situation topics relate to gerontological concepts, research, and theories. Presents problems with health, socioeconomic, and minority issues. Discusses ageism, racism, and sexism. G.E. Multicultural/International MI. (Formerly GERON 180T section)

#### **166. Social Gerontology (3)**

(See SOC 166.)

#### **180T. Topics in Gerontology**

**(1-3; max total 9)**

Various topics in the field of aging such as health and wellness, death and dying, and activity courses. Content varies from semester to semester.

#### **185. Internship in Gerontology**

**(1-6; max total 6)**

Prerequisites: upper division or graduate standing and permission of instructor. Supervised work experience in gerontology. May be coordinated with student's major, e.g., *business and gerontology*. *CR/NC* grading only.

#### **190. Independent Study**

**(1-3; max total 6)**

See *Academic Placement — Independent Study*. Approved for *SP* grading.

## **IN-SERVICE COURSE**

(See *Course Numbering System*.)

### ***Gerontology (GERON)***

#### **301. Topics in Gerontology**

**(1-3; max total 6)**

Designed for professionals and pre-professionals working with elders. Topics such as: care of elders in settings such as acute, subacute, transitional, skilled nursing, residential facilities for elderly, long-term, and community; case management; caregivers; and chronic illness and dementia.