

Gerontology

College of Health
and Human Services

Gerontology Program

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Minor in Gerontology

Gerontological Specialist Certificate

Gerontology

Gerontology is the study of aging. Our nation's steadily increasing older population is creating a unique demand for well educated individuals to serve as competent professionals in the field of aging.

The Gerontology Program offers a minor and a certificate in gerontology, both designed to prepare students to address unmet and urgent needs of elders. Special majors can also be arranged for the student. 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.

Courses 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, as are 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 communicate and interact with elders through community service, internships, and service learning.



Program Partnerships

Programs that operate in partnership with the Gerontology Program include the California Geriatric Education Center (CGEC) San Joaquin Valley Program, Elderhostel Program, the Fresno Learning Activities in Retirement (FLAIR), Friendly Visitor Services, and the Gerontology Education and Resource Center.

The Gerontology Program cosponsors the S.A.G.E. (Student Association Gerontology Education) Club, and offers continuing education for health professionals in cooperation with the Division of Global and Continuing Education's Extension Programs.

Career Opportunities

The development of employment opportunities in the field of gerontology include 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 businesses such as banks, travel agencies, large corporations, insurance companies, educational agencies, publishing and broadcasting agencies, and department stores.

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 disorders and deaf studies; 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 director if they plan to request a minor.

<i>Gerontology Minor</i>	<i>Units</i>
Required	9
GERON 10S and/or GERON 100; GERON 140, 161	
Electives	6*
GERON 103, 111, 115, 117, 125, 130, 132, 134, 137 (1-3 units), 139, 148, 150	
Total	15

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

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, 559.278.1787, Joyal Administration, Room 224.

Gerontological Specialist Certificate

The certificate will be awarded to students who complete a program of study consisting of 21 units of courses in gerontology.

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 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>
Required	12
GERON 100, 140, 161, 185	
Electives	9*

Select 9 units from: GERON 103, 111, 115, 117, 125, 132, 137 (1-3 units), 139, 148, 150, 180T, 190

Total 21

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

COURSES

Gerontology (GERON)

GERON 10S. The Journey of Adulthood: Planning a Meaningful Life (3)
(Same as RLS 10S.) An introduction to theories, concepts, perspectives, and the study of aging; psychological, physiological, cultural, and ethnic issues fundamental to planning a meaningful life during the journey of adulthood. Examines developing a healthy lifestyle and cultivating lifelong learning and satisfaction. Not available for CR/NC grading. G.E. Breadth E1. (Formerly GERON 10)

GERON 18. Women and Aging (3)
(See WS 18.) G.E. Breadth E1.

GERON 100. Images of Aging in Contemporary Society (3)
Prerequisites: G.E. Foundation and Breadth Area D. 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. G.E. Integration ID.

GERON 103. Psychology of Aging (3)
(Same as PSYCH 103.) Psychological study of maturity and old age; physiological and sociological considerations.

GERON 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.

GERON 115. Health Issues of Aging (3)
(See HS 115.)

GERON 117. Resource Management of Aging (3)
(See CSH 117.)

GERON 125. Social Services for the Aging (3)
(See SWRK 125.)

GERON 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.

GERON 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.

GERON 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.

GERON 137. Community Service in Gerontology (1-3; max total 3)
Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Service-oriented course designed to provide opportunities to observe, interact, and learn from elders in gerontological settings. Hour requirements are supported through writing and discussion of issues and solutions. CR/NC grading only. (Formerly GERON 180T)

GERON 139. Death and Dying (3)
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)

GERON 140. Aging in America: Politics and Change (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.

GERON 148. Biophysical Aspects of Aging (3)
(See KINES 148.)

GERON 150. Communication and Aging (3)
(See COMM 150.) (Formerly SPCH 188T section)

GERON 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.

GERON 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.

GERON 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.

GERON 190. Independent Study (1-3; max total 6)
See *Academic Placement — Independent Study*. Approved for RP grading.

IN-SERVICE COURSE

(See *Catalog Numbering System*.)

Gerontology (GERON)

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.