



**COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GERONTOLOGY**

The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology is offered by the College of Health and Human Development to prepare a qualified work force to address the needs of our aging population. The need for a gerontology certificate arises because the complex issues and problems of aging require an interdisciplinary perspective that is not provided within any single discipline. The knowledge and skills acquired will enable graduates to integrate gerontology into their discipline and to provide services for an older population. The certificate provides documentation that students have completed an organized program of interdisciplinary gerontology courses.

Applicants for the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology must have completed a bachelor's degree in a health or human services-related major. The certificate complements many other graduate degree programs and can be taken concurrently with courses towards a graduate degree. Class scheduling will reflect the needs of a working student population with evening classes or weekend classes that meet less frequently for longer periods of time. Some courses may be offered online. The certificate requires 15 units of approved course work. [See core and elective requirements below.]

Core Requirements (12 UNITS):

1. Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Aging (HHD 501) (3 units)

This seminar provides an interdisciplinary overview of the fundamental principles, theories, issues and concepts in the field of gerontology. The interdisciplinary emphasis derives from the fact that to understand aging we must consider facts and explanations from a wide array of fields. Social gerontology integrates knowledge that ranges from history, demography, physiology, philosophy, science, ethics, medicine, law, mass communications, and social policy. Thus, the course will examine the individual and social meanings of aging and old age; the physical, physiological, psychological, and sociological changes accompanying aging, and the individual, family, community and societal adaptations that need to be made in response to these changes. The course will emphasize the research literature to consider issues that include work, retirement, leisure, health, technologies and living environments.

2. Aging Policy and Programs (HHD 502) (3 units)

This seminar is designed to provide students with knowledge of the policy process, the politics of aging, and an opportunity to explore selected aging policy issues in depth. The course focuses on a few policy development areas. Students will gain insight into the historical, social, economic and demographic issues that have influenced the development of federal and state legislation giving rise to programs for older persons. Through projects and papers students examine the design and implementation of particular policies, track current changes in legislation, and critique current policies.

3. **Gerontology Program Development (HHD 503)** (3 units)

Using an interdisciplinary approach, this course critically examines a variety of issues relating to the administration, development, and evaluation of gerontology programs and services for diverse older adults and their families. Topics covered include leadership, organizational planning, ethics in human services, fiscal management, program development and evaluation, personnel management, and marketing. The course emphasizes applications to actual problems facing government agencies and organizations serving older adults.

4. **Current Issues in Aging (HHD 504)** (3 units)

This interdisciplinary course addresses selected topics in aging presented at an advanced level. Preference is given to current topics considered key to the gerontology professional. Possible topics include emerging issues in diversity, gender, nutrition, consumer affairs, physical fitness, quality of life and mental health.

5. **Elective** (3 Units)

Select one from the list below:

SOC	440	Sociology of Aging	3
PSY	465	Psychology of Aging	3
HSCI	418	Health and Aging	3
HSCI	422	Health Services for the Elderly and Mentally Ill	3
HSCI	521	Healthcare Ethics	3
FCS	424	Resource Management for the Elderly	3
FCS	409	Geriatric Nutrition	3
FCS	543	Intergenerational Caregiving	3
RTM	415	Leisure and Aging	3
KIN	566	Seminar in Aging and Environmental Aspects of Exercise	3