

GERONTOLOGY, CERTIFICATE

Department: Family and Human Services

Coordinator: Jessie Piper, Assistant Professor

Description

This certificate is constructed around the premise that a broader understanding of Gerontology is critical to meet the needs of an aging society. The certificate is also based on the premise that Gerontology is, by its nature, an interdisciplinary course of study requiring education in bio-psycho-social issues. Expanded career opportunities in gerontology are forecast in many areas, including healthcare, the helping professions, public policy, and more. As a result, this certificate is open to all students across the university and includes courses from several disciplines. This certificate will prepare students to meet increasing workforce needs of an aging society and/or to pursue graduate study in Gerontology or related fields.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students obtaining the Gerontology Certificate, upon graduation, will be able to:

- Describe physiological, psychological, and social changes that are associated with aging.
- Identify societal changes that are associated with an aging population.
- Identify ways in which aging is intersected by race, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, and other important social variables.
- Use evidence-based information, effective logic and accurate vocabulary to communicate about Gerontology.

Study Plan

To obtain the certificate, students will complete 18 credit hours of coursework. In addition to 15 credit hours of required coursework, students must complete three credit hours of elective coursework. Some courses may require completion of prerequisites. The list of electives may be modified as new courses with Gerontology content become available. Students wishing to obtain elective credit for a directed study or internship course must obtain prior approval from the coordinator.

Certificate Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
HS 131	Human Development	3
HS 372	Death & Dying	3
HS 378	Issues in Aging	3
BI 260	Biology of Aging	3
PY 212	Psychology of Adulthood and Aging ¹	3
or PY 326	Health Psychology	
Elective Course (Select one course from the list below)		3
Total Hours		18

¹ Prerequisite: PY 100

Elective Courses

Code	Title	Hours
AL 101	Foundations of Healthcare	3
AL 366	Legal & Regulatory Issues for the Health Care Professional	3
AL 420	Current Issues in Health Care	3
AN 312	Medical Anthropology ¹	3
AR 291/391	Art Therapy ²	3
CN 306	Health Communication	3
CN 351	Special Topics in Interpersonal Communication	3
HS 301	Working with Trauma	3
HS 371	Mental Health and Aging	3
HS 390	Special Topics (Strategies in Lifespan Resilience)	1-6
HS 390	Special Topics (Disability Studies)	1-6
HS 411	Family Issues	3
LG 220	Wills & Estate Administration ³	3
LG 320	Elder Law ³	3
KN 248	Wellness Concepts and Applications	3
NU 335	Special Topics/Nursing (Interdisciplinary Community Health) ⁴	3
NU 335	Special Topics/Nursing (Palliative Care) ⁴	3
PO 305	Public Policy	3
PY 326	Health Psychology ²	3
SO 326	Aging and Society ⁵	3
SW 360	Geriatric Social Work Practice	3
An internship or practicum in a setting approved by the coordinator		3
A directed study course approved by the coordinator		3

¹ Prerequisite: AN 112 or AN 116

² Prerequisite: PY 100

³ Prerequisite: LG 100 or LG 200 or consent

⁴ Prerequisite: Requires Consent

⁵ Prerequisite: SO 100