



Gerontology

College of Liberal Studies

Undergraduate Program

- Gerontology Emphasis

Program Features

The Gerontology Emphasis is a multi-disciplinary program for undergraduate students in any major within the university. While continuing with a major, the student simply takes additional credits from a wide variety of courses in Economics, Exercise and Sport Science, Health Education and Promotion, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Therapeutic Recreation, and Sociology. Faculty advisers are available in several departments and work with faculty in other departments to assist the student in preparing a gerontology course of study most appropriate for each student's career objectives.

Sample Courses

- Gerontology Foundations
- Health Aspects of Aging
- Adulthood and Aging
- Leisure and Gerontology
- Aging and Physical Activity
- Public Policy
- Health Care and Illness
- Death, Grief and Bereavement

Career Opportunities

Because of the breadth of gerontology, students need the skills and knowledge of a traditional major and then apply those skills to the field of aging. Jobs therefore depend upon the major field completed and include:

- Administrators of Government Agencies
- Advertisers, Journalists
- Business Managers/Marketers
- Health Educators
- Human Service Workers
- Medical Ethicists
- Nurses
- Nursing Care Center Administrators
- Occupational Therapists
- Physical Educators
- Physical Therapists
- Physician Assistants
- Psychologists/Counselors
- Researchers
- Therapeutic Recreation Specialists
- Urban Planners

Occupational Outlook

As the nation's "Baby Boomers" age, the 65-plus will grow from the present 13 percent to 20 percent of the nation's population by 2030. This will mean a great demand for individuals with training and experience in working with older adults and aging issues in almost every field from advertising, health and fitness, health economics, human services, law, management, and public policy. Some say there is "gold in old" especially with gerontology and an MBA or law degree.

Students may leave campus with a degree in a major such as therapeutic recreation plus the gerontology emphasis and immediately obtain employment working directly with older adults. Others use their degrees to work in research, planning, or management of services, and some pursue advanced degrees including the Ph.D. in gerontology.

Students also use gerontology to prepare for their own aging as well as help them to understand and enrich the lives of aging parents and others in their society.

Professional Associations

Association for Gerontology in Higher Education Student Page
<http://www.aghe.org/675593>
Check this site for information on careers, education, and job opportunities in aging.

Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
<http://www.aoa.gov>
Learn about the Administration on Aging Volunteer Internship Program

Andrus Gerontology Center Library
<http://www.usc.edu/libraries/locations/gerontology>
This site is useful for researching aging topics.

Geropsychology Central
<http://www.premier.net/~gero/geropsyc.html>
"Gero Web" is a student developed site.

National Institute on Aging
<http://www.nih.gov/nia>
Important new research in aging is identified here.

Senior Law

<http://www.seniorlaw.com/index.htm>

Good site to get an idea of the kinds of work that combine law and gerontology.

U.S. Department of Labor;
Employment and Training
Administration; Bureau of Labor
Statistics

<http://stats.bls.gov/>

Key word search "gerontology"
indicates that job market
opportunities in the human service
area are above average.

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