

# UWL & Gerontology

## e Undergraduate Emphasis Program

### **The population of those age 65 and over in the U.S. is growing.**

This group is predicted to increase from 13% to 20% of the country's residents by 2030. Shifting demographics means an increased demand for individuals with training and experience working with older adults and aging issues in almost every field.

UWL's Gerontology emphasis is a multi-disciplinary program designed to assist students planning to enter fields directly involving older persons and it is open to undergraduate students in any major. The study of gerontology will also help students to prepare for their own aging process and experiences with aging in their personal and professional lives.

### **What is gerontology?**

Gerontology is the study of aging. Aging is a multifaceted human experience that begins at birth. Every individual undergoes changes in their social lives, cognitive health, emotional responses and physical bodies as they develop. At UWL, Gerontology is an emphasis, meaning this topic can be interwoven with any academic area of interest that a student majors in, such as economics, exercise and sport science, health education and promotion, philosophy, political science, psychology, therapeutic recreation or sociology.



### **Gerontology jobs**

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 depend upon the major field completed.

For instance, students may leave campus with a degree in therapeutic recreation plus the Gerontology emphasis and obtain employment working directly with older adults in therapeutic recreation. Others use their degrees to work in research, planning, management of services or may have more indirect contact with older adults through policy development. Some pursue advanced degrees with a gerontological focus including, but not limited to a doctoral degree, master's in business, law degree, occupational therapy or physical therapy degree. Jobs could include:

- Public policy professionals
- Business professionals
- Healthcare professionals
- Psychologists/counselors, social workers
- Legal professionals, attorneys
- Journalists
- Health educators
- Medical ethicists
- Physical educators
- Researchers
- Urban planners

### **What distinguishes UWL's gerontology program?**

- **Unique program, growing demand**  
The Gerontology emphasis prepares students for careers and life in a rapidly changing world, impacted by shifting demographics. An aging population means increased demand for individuals with training and experience working with older adults and aging issues in almost every field. The Gerontology emphasis is one of a limited number of Gerontology programs in Wisconsin.
- **Program flexibility**  
The Gerontology emphasis is cross-disciplinary and flexible, enhancing career readiness. The emphasis includes 15 credits of coursework. At least six credits must be taken from the core and the nine remaining credits can be selected from the core, supportive courses or other gerontology-related coursework, such as internships, approved by program coordinators.

#### **Program Director**

**Name:** Ellen Rozek

**Contact:** [erozek@uwlax.edu](mailto:erozek@uwlax.edu) | 608.785.6899

**Web:** [www.uwlax.edu/gerontology](http://www.uwlax.edu/gerontology)

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