



Undergraduate Program

EMPHASIS:

- Gerontology Emphasis

Sample Courses

- Health Aspects of Aging
- Adulthood & Aging
- Leisure in Gerontology
- Death & Dying
- Fitness Across the Lifespan
- Aging and the Elderly
- Public Policy
- Healthcare & Illness

Professional Associations

- Association for Gerontology in Higher Education Student Page <http://www.aghe.org/675593>
- Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Learn about the Administration on Aging Volunteer Internship Program: <http://www.aoa.gov>
- Andrus Gerontology Center Library - Research aging topics: www.usc.edu/libraries/locations/gerontology
- Geropsychology Central - www.premier.net/~gero/geropsyc.html
- National Institute on Aging - Important new research in aging: <http://www.nih.gov/nia>
- Senior Law - Discover work that combine law and gerontology: www.seniorlaw.com/index.htm

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 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

Program Features

The gerontology emphasis is a multi-disciplinary program designed to assist students planning to enter career-related areas directly involving older persons, and is open to undergraduate students in any major within the university. The study of gerontology will also help students prepare for their own aging as well as to develop a better understanding of and to seek enrichment for the lives of aging parents and our aging populations. While continuing with a major, the student will take 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. The gerontology emphasis consists of 15 credits with at least 6 credits from the core and the remaining credits from the core, supportive courses, or other gerontology-related coursework (e.g., internships) approved by the program coordinators.

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.

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View degree requirements:
www.uwlax.edu/catalog

www.uwlax.edu/gerontology