

Gerontology

Gerontology Degrees and Certificates

Gerontology Certificate

The certificate program in Gerontology incorporates a multidisciplinary approach to the study of aging, including policies developed and services offered to meet the needs of the elderly in our society. The curriculum blends liberal studies and professional orientations.

The purpose of the program is to provide the formal study of aging and older adults. The goals of the program are as follows:

- Increase students' knowledge of the aging process,
- Enhance students' understanding of aging as a developmentally appropriate and expected part of the universal human experience,
- Broaden students' awareness of and attitudes toward older adults,
- Offer students the basic knowledge and skills that underlie providing services to and enhancing opportunities for older adults,
- Provide opportunities for students to interrelate knowledge, experience, and professional application regarding services for older adults.

The Gerontology Certificate program encourages students to develop a broad view of aging for professional applications. Upon completion of the program, students will have an excellent foundation for providing services for older adults, working in the fields of policy planning or administration of services for older adults, and working in various health care professions with older adults.

Admission Requirements

Applicants to the Gerontology Certificate program must meet Sage Graduate School admission requirements.

Program Requirements

The Gerontology Certificate program provides a formal course of the study of aging and older adults. The program is a sequence of four core courses (3 credits each) and a final project (3 credits) for a total of 15 credits. Courses may be used as electives in existing graduate degree programs at Sage, according to the requirements of the particular program. Courses may be used in existing graduate degree programs at Sage, such as Psychology, Nursing, and Community Health Education according to the requirements of the program.

Gerontology Certificate Program Summary

Program: Gerontology

Type: Certificate

Core Requirements

Item #	Title	Credits
GNT 504	Health Policy for Aging	
GNT 510	Mind-Body Aging	
GNT 522	Palliative Care & Chronic Illness	

Final Project

Item #	Title	Credits
GNT 587	Internship	
GNT 590	Culminating Project	
Total credits:		12

Gerontology Classes

GNT 501: Perspectives on Aging

This course provides opportunity to define at a personal and societal level the following questions: What is aging? Who are the elderly? What are the issues that impact on the experience of aging? Answers to these questions are explored through scientific subjective, qualitative, and fictive accounts of age and aging in the historical and cultural tradition of the arts and humanities.

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GNT 504: Health Policy for Aging

Public policy and service delivery for America's aging population and end of life care appear to be at a crossroads as our society struggles to meet the demands of competing political philosophies, advances in medical technology and a rapidly changing demographic profile. In the current political debate the only thing that is clear is the inevitability of change and the certain challenge to existing social, political and economic institutions. This course provides an overview of the significant social and health care policies and programs that effect end of life care, aging populations as well as diverse and vulnerable populations. The course also focuses on the public policy making process and policy analysis. Areas for in-depth analysis will include: health care, income security, long term care, end of life issues, health care finance and formal and informal support systems. When ever possible the course content will be related to the students' work in their major area of study and their professional fields. Particular attention will be paid to Social Security and Medicare, budget deficits, political ideology and how they are employed as issues in the political arena.

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GNT 510: Mind-Body Aging

This course examines aging and its effect on individuals, using concepts, source materials and methods from the biological and social sciences as well as the humanities. Longevity, morbidity compression and technology have changed the face of aging; the very definition of who is an older adult can be questioned within this altered context. While the process of growing older is still, ultimately, inevitable, how one actually goes through that process is the unique outcome of the mind-body aging experience. The course has two foci: the anticipated physiological and psycho-social changes associated with aging and the various responses older adults may engage in to overcome, adapt to and live with these changes. A course objective is to increase the students skill in moving between societal and individual considerations without losing sight of underlying human questions. We will focus on techniques for studying individuals adaptations to aging with a special emphasis on expected physiological changes, healthy aging, role transition, relationships, cultural variation and

living with chronic illness and disability. This course is suitable for the student who wishes to secure a generalist foundation in the content area and apply that knowledge to service delivery, program development, and direct work with older adults.

Prerequisites:

GNT 501 or permission of instructor

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GNT 522: Palliative Care & Chronic Illness

Palliative care within chronic illness is an interdisciplinary care approach to improve quality of life for clients and their families. As an evolving paradigm, models of palliative care, special population groups, standards of care, delivery systems, and the scope of practice and role responsibilities of multidisciplinary team are explored. Research and best practice related to intervention is evaluated. Common care areas include: quality of life, communications needs, care-giver support, self-care and care needs, spirituality, advocacy, ethical issues, and planning for a good death.

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GNT 587: Internship

The goal of the final project is to integrate knowledge gained from the preceding courses, and to apply this knowledge, either through practical experience or a scholarly project (see Culminating Project in Gerontology). The particular content and form of the project will depend on the student's background, interest, and needs, and will be tailored to each individual student.

Prerequisites:

Completion of GNT 501, 502, 503, , 504

Program: Gerontology

GNT 590: Culminating Project

The goal of the final project is to integrate knowledge gained from the preceding courses, and to apply this knowledge, either through practical experience (see Internship in Gerontology) or scholarly project. The particular content and form of the project will depend on the student's background, interests, and needs and will be tailored to each individual student.

Prerequisites:

Completion of GNT 501, 502, 503, , 504

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