

## Gerontology

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### Certificate in Gerontology

The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology is open to post-bachelor level students who are interested in the area of gerontology. It is designed to provide knowledge, skills, and specialized training in programs and services for older persons. The certificate includes core courses on aging in the following areas: social work, rehabilitation, health, exercise and education. Courses within the certification program will include, but not be limited to: policy and program issues, psychosocial issues and health and fitness issues. The coursework also includes a practicum in an agency suitable to the individual's interest OR research project. Students must complete 18 semester hours of study including a minimum of three hours of practicum/research, to earn the certificate.

For more information contact:

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### Courses (GRON)

**There is no approved graduate program in Gerontology.**

*Four-hundred-level courses may be taken for graduate credit unless otherwise indicated in the course description.*

**GRON 402-3 Death Education.** (Same as PH 402) Designed to prepare educators to conduct learning experiences about death and dying in a variety of school, college, medical care, and community settings. Stress will be placed on developing brief, functional curricula and usable, imaginative, teaching-learning materials and on evaluating resource materials for use in educating at various levels of maturity.

**GRON 405-3 Introduction to Aging and Rehabilitation.** (Same as REHB 405) Introduction to the field of aging. Including social, political, economic and legal issues pertinent to an aging society and rehabilitation.

**GRON 428-3 Physical Activity and Exercise for Older Adults.** (Same as KIN 428) This course is designed to introduce the student to physical changes of the older person with reference to activity and exercise and to teach the student about rational activity and exercise programs for the older person with consideration of the care and prevention of typical injuries that may occur with such programs.

**GRON 440-3 Health Issues in Aging.** (Same as PH 440) Course content includes demographic trends; physiological changes associated with aging; health care and consumer challenges; cultural differences; psychological effects of aging; housing; long-term care; retirement; care giving; and formal, informal, and community-based support systems.

**GRON 440C-3 Therapeutic Recreation for Older Adults-Therapeutic Recreation for the Aged.** (Same as REC 440C) Students will examine problems and characteristics of

individuals with various disabilities. Emphasis is upon the role of therapeutic recreation with these specific populations in institutional and community settings. Prerequisites: REC 300, REC 301, REC 302, REC 304 or consent of instructor.

**GRON 446-3 Psychosocial Aspects of Aging.** (Same as REHB 446) Selected theories of psychosocial aspects of aging will be presented and the psychological and sociological processes of aging with the ensuing changes will be related to these conceptual frameworks. Included for discussion and related to field experience will be such concerns as stress reactions to retirement, physical disabilities, impact of reduced economic resources, and other personal-social changes in aging. Topics will address the knowledge base needed by students concerned with rehabilitation of aging clients in institutional, community and home settings. Therapeutic techniques to ameliorate these stresses will be an integral part of the course.

**GRON 500-1 to 3 Seminar in Gerontology.** This course is designed to provide a multidisciplinary conceptual framework for the study of Gerontology and to assist Gerontology students to develop the skills and knowledge needed to understand major issues in theory, research, and practice. This course is designed to familiarize the student with the process of critical reading of Gerontological research from multiple disciplines to solve practical problems.

**GRON 505-3 Behavioral Gerontology.** This course examines the application of behavioral principles to problems associated with aging such as deficits in the activities of daily living and social skills, wandering, aggression, incontinence, depression and anxiety, and dementia among others. Environmental redesign and alternative performance strategies will also be addressed. Behavioral training and supervision of staff members who work with older individuals is also presented. Special approval needed from the instructor.

**GRON 517-3 Aging, Memory and Cognition.** (Same as PSYC 517) A detailed survey of current methodology, research and theory dealing with cognitive and memory processes in later adulthood. Topics covered include attention, memory, reasoning and problem solving, language processing and inference and age-associated pathologies affecting cognition and memory. Special approval needed from the instructor.

**GRON 555-3 to 6 Practicum/Research in Gerontology.** The practicum or research project in the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology is designed as a culminating experience directly related to the students' intended employment or area of interest. It will, therefore, normally be taken after the predominance of course work is completed. The practicum/research experience may be completed in any appropriate setting as judged by the Gerontology Advisory Board and faculty associated with the area of Gerontology. Graded S/U only.

**GRON 559-3 Aging and Mental Health.** (Same as SOCW 559) Examination of the nature and etiology of mental health problems facing older Americans. Review of research reports to build a theoretical basis for mental disorders.

**GRON 575-3 Policy and Program Issues of Aging.** (Same as SOCW 575) Examination of public policies that impact on the quality of life of the elderly. Major programs are identified and analyzed. Future policy issues are discussed.