

## Associate in Applied Science in Gerontology

### Careers in Gerontology

Gerontology, the study of aging, is a relatively new discipline that has emerged during the last 20 to 30 years. It is a multi-disciplinary field that integrates the fields of adult education, sociology, health, biology, psychology, and social work.

The program, which includes both theoretical and practical components, is designed for students who wish to pursue a career in service to the aging population. The program is also designed for those currently working in the field of aging who wish to increase their knowledge and practical skills.

Employment opportunities for individuals in the field of gerontology include the following job titles: adult protective services representative, community organizer, lobbyist, agency administrator, assisted living director, consultant on consumer needs for older adults, adult day-care provider, environmental designer, health/wellness educator, elderhostel coordinator, bereavement counselor, elder abuse investigator, senior citizens center director, home healthcare manager, hospice provider, homebound outreach coordinator, senior services program coordinator, foster grandparent coordinator, nutrition coordinator, policy planner, volunteer coordinator, senior transportation coordinator, and many more.

### Program Learning Outcomes

These learning outcomes are established for the Gerontology Program at the associate degree level:

1. Graduates will have a well defined inclusive understanding of the field of gerontology including demographics, tasks facing gerontologists, and entrepreneurship
2. Graduates will have knowledge of the health and biological aspects of aging, theories of aging, wellness strategies and chronic illnesses common to the elderly.
3. Graduate will have knowledge regarding mental health as related to aging, later life transitions, and mental illness and treatment.
4. Graduate will have knowledge regarding dying and death, bereavement, and advance directives
5. Graduate will have knowledge regarding long-term care settings, licensure, accreditation, etc.
6. Graduate will have basic organizational and managerial theories and principles applicable to social service agencies
7. Graduate will have basic knowledge for grant writing.
8. Graduate will have knowledge and skills to use appropriate interpersonal skills and intervention techniques to work with people.
9. Graduate will have completed a 240 hour practicum in an approved agency that provides services to the elderly.

### Curriculum/Suggested Sequence

(64-65 hours required for graduation)

#### FIRST SEMESTER

COLL 101	College 101	3
HUM 101	Introduction to Humanities	3
ENGL 101	English Composition I <b>OR</b>	
ENG 110	English Composition I	3
AH 101	Intro to Health Care	3
AH 103	Intro to Gerontology	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

#### THIRD SEMESTER

AH 102	Health Aspects of Aging	3
BST 230	Bus Comm and Ethics	3
AH 205	Human Relationship Skills	3
BST 202	Principles of Management	3
BST 104	Business Math	3
CHEM 100	Consumer Chemistry <b>OR</b>	
BIOL 101	Principles of Biology <b>OR</b>	
BIOL 210	Basic Anatomy & Physiology*	3-4
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>18-19</b>

#### SECOND SEMESTER

PSYC 151	Gen Psychology <b>OR</b>	
SOC 101	Intro to Sociology	3
BST 240	Fund of Bus Comp Appl <b>OR</b>	
CS 106	Intro to Comp & Office Appl	3
ENGL 102	English Composition II	3
AH 206	Death and Dying	3
AH 209	Psychosocial Aspects of Aging	3
BST 106	Intro to Business	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>18</b>

#### FOURTH SEMESTER

AH 202	Practicum (Spring Only)	3
AH 204	Admin & Prog Plan in Gerontology	3
HHP 352	Community Health	3
BST 298	Business Seminar (Capstone)	1
AH 208	Long Term Care	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>13</b>

\*BIO 210 accepted for elective credit in baccalaureate program, but does not apply towards WVSU's baccalaureate General Education Core

### Prerequisites for Practicum

1. Must have completed 6 required gerontology courses plus 20 hours of general education courses with a grade of "C" or better.
2. Must have a GPA of 2.0 at time of registration for practicum.
3. Must be registered in AH 202 before beginning practicum.

To graduate a grade of "C" or better must be earned in all general education and gerontology courses.



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