

Certificate Degree in Gerontology (Study of Aging)

Purpose

The Gerontology Certificate Degree Program is intended for individuals who wish to acquire expertise and credentials in the field of gerontology (study of aging).

Who should consider a Gerontology Certificate?

- Individuals who wish to enroll in the core gerontology courses rather than pursue all of the requirements of the associate degree program.
- Students who have or are currently pursuing an associate or a bachelor's degree but have no formal background in gerontology.
- Students who have completed an A.A.S. in Community Behavioral Health Technology or a B.S. in psychology, social work, nursing, recreation therapy, or business and intend to work in an area that services the aging.

Job Titles in Gerontology

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 Certificate Degree level but do not include as many of the general education core elements as the Associate Degree:

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

(34 hours required for certificate)

COURSE

AH	101	Intro to Health Care	3
AH	103	Intro to Gerontology	3
AH	204	Admin and Prog Plan in Geron	3
AH	102	Health Aspects of Aging	3
AH	209	Psychosocial Aspects of Aging	3
AH	208	Long-Term Care	3
AH	205	Human Relationship Skills	3
AH	202	Practicum (capstone)*	3
AH	206	Death and Dying	3
ENGL	101	English Composition I	
ENG	110	English Composition I	3
BST	240	Fund of Bus Comp Appl	3
BST	298	Business Seminar	<u>1</u>
Total Credits			34

Practicum Hours 240

Prerequisites for Practicum

1. Must have completed 6 hours required gerontology 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 practicum site is assigned.
4. A grade of "C" or better required in all general education and gerontology courses for graduation.

For More Information, Contact:
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