

Gerontology

College of Health
and Human Services

Interdisciplinary Gerontology Program

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<http://www.csufresno.edu/gerontology>

Minor in Gerontology Certificate in Gerontology

Gerontology

Gerontology is the study of aging. Our nation's steadily increasing older population is creating a unique demand for well educated individuals to understand the field of aging and competent professionals to work with elders.

The Interdisciplinary Gerontology Program offers a minor and a certificate in gerontology. Both are designed to prepare students to meet unmet and urgent needs in this rapidly developing field. The Interdisciplinary Gerontology Program attracts undergraduate students from all academic areas, e.g., reentry students, graduate students within social science and health professions, service providers, and elders seeking greater understanding of this stage of life.

The study of gerontology is based upon many important theories and concepts of aging, which are presented through an organized course of study. Core courses — gerontology and cross-listed interdisciplinary — are designed to present comprehensive biological, psychological, cultural and sociological theories related to the life-long aging process. Concepts related to the influence of heritage, multicultures, wellness, exercise and creativity are emphasized. Information related to Healthy People 2000, services and resources; housing and environment; disabilities and rehabilitation; federal, state, and local agencies; social policies and programs for elders is presented.

Students have the opportunity to develop empathy for older adults as they explore communication and interaction with elders in a social setting. Current research findings are presented and research opportunities are available.

Program Responsibilities

The Gerontology Program is responsible for the Gerontology Minor, Gerontology Certificate, interdisciplinary cross-referenced courses and conferences on aging.

Other programs housed within the office of the Gerontology Program include the California Geriatric Education Center (CGEC) San Joaquin Valley Program — a statewide interdisciplinary center supported by a grant from the Bureau of Health Professions, Public Health Service — provides educational offerings for health professionals and faculty; Elderhostel Program, the Fresno Learning Activities in Retirement (FLAIR), Friendly Visitor Services, Geriatric Nursing Resource Center, and the Gerontology Education and Resource Center.

The Gerontology Program cosponsors the Central California Alzheimer's Diagnostic Disease Center and the Rohlfing Medical Lectureship Series. Gerontology Club, Elderfest, and continuing education for health professionals are also offered in cooperation with the Division of Extended Education.

Certification and recertification classes for administrators of Residential Care Facilities for Elderly (RCFE). CEUs for BENHA and CNAs are also offered.

Career Opportunities

The development of employment opportunities in the field of gerontology has emerged in response to the needs of a steadily increasing older population. Many occupational roles are available in different sites. These include but are not limited to: federal, state, county, and city agencies, senior citizen centers, adult day care centers, skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, acute care hospitals, medical centers, senior housing sites, retirement communities, home health agencies, hospices, legislative bodies, and community planning agencies. New programs are developing in Eldercare, case management, and consultation in business.

There is an increased recognition of the importance of designing and providing specialized programs in the private sector. Knowledgeable people work as consultants in banks, travel agencies, large corporations, insurance companies, educational agencies, publishing and broadcasting agencies, and department stores. The field is wide open for creative and innovative individuals.

Advisory Council and Program Faculty

The Interdisciplinary Gerontology Program Advisory Council provides overall curricular decisions, coordination, and collaboration. The Council is composed of representatives from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, the College of Arts and Humanities, the Sid Craig School of Business, the School of Education and Human Development, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the College of Health and Human Services, the College of Natural Sciences, and the College of Social Sciences.

Many members of the council teach gerontology courses in both the minor and certificate programs. Advisory Council members are: Judith Allender (Nursing), Carl Carmichael (Communication), Donald Coleman (Educational Research, Administration, and Foundations), Glen C. Doyle (Gerontology), William Fasse (Child, Family, and Consumer Sciences), John Franz (Employee Assistance Program), Diana Gilbertson (Business Management), Phil Kimble (Psychology), Vickie Krenz (Health Science), Hamo Lalezarian (Engineering), Peggy Trueblood (Physical Therapy), Rose Lyon (Kinesiology), Elizabeth Nelson (Sociology), Matthew Sharps (Psychology), Alta Case Hall (Gerontology), and Katsuyo Howard (Student Life and Development).

Gerontology Minor

The Interdisciplinary Minor in Gerontology (study of aging) is open to students in any major. It is designed to serve undergraduate majors in business; communicative sciences and disorders; child, family, and consumer science; health science; nursing; kinesiology; physical therapy; psychology; recreation administration and leisure studies; social work education; and sociology. It is also designed to serve those currently working for service agencies for the aging as well as aging individuals who are interested in gaining greater insight into this period of their lives.

The minor consists of 15 semester units of credit. Students should register in the Gerontology Program Office and meet with the Gerontology Adviser if they plan to request a minor.

	Units
Required	9
GERON 10 or INTD 160; GERON 140, 161	
Electives*	6
GERON 111, 115, 117, 132, 134, 148, 150, 166, 180T	
Total	15

* Other gerontology courses may be approved as alternatives with permission of a gerontology adviser.

A special major in gerontology may be designed. The process for this is initiated through the Office of Advising Services, (559) 278-2924, Joyal Administration, Room 121.

Certificate in Gerontology

The Certificate in Gerontology will be awarded to students who complete an interdisciplinary program of study consisting of 15 units of upper-division courses in gerontology and a 3-unit prerequisite course. Students admitted to the program are expected to have had two years of college or two years of experience in the field of aging and some college courses.

Those who have completed the course of study are entitled to use the title “Gerontological Specialist.” The following list includes the recommended content areas in the field of aging to be covered: an introductory course in gerontology, social policy, multicultural aging, physiological aging, psychological aging, sociological issues, and social services. Coursework must be completed with a C or better.

Prerequisite (3 units)

INTD 160 or GERON 10

	Units
Required	6
GERON 140, 161	
Electives*	9
Select 9 units from: GERON 103, 115, 117, 125, 148, 166 or 185	
Total	15

* Other gerontology courses may be approved as alternatives with permission of a gerontology adviser.

For further information, call or write:
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COURSES

Gerontology (GERON)

10. The Journey of Adulthood (3)
 An introduction to gerontology; theories, concepts, perspectives, and research in the study of aging; psychological, physiological, and sociological changes; and cultural, ethnic and political issues. Intergenerational and multicultural activities. G.E. Breadth E1.

18. Women and Aging (3)
 (See W S 18.) G.E. Breadth E1. (Formerly GERON 118)

100. Images of Aging in Contemporary Society (3)
 Comprehensive overview of gerontology. Explores various images of aging with a multidisciplinary, multicultural approach based on biological, psychological, sociological, and cultural theories.

103. Maturity and Old Age (3)
 (See PSYCH 103.)

111. Heritage and Aging (3)
 Designed to explore various facets of aging. Covers the combined influence and effect of various aspects, including birth, year; cultural heritage; ethnicity, historical/political events; literature, theater, music and visual arts; science and technology.

115. Health Issues of Aging (3)
 (See H S 115.)

117. Resource Management of Aging (3)
 (See CSH 117.)

125. Social Services for the Aging (3)
 (See S WRK 125.)

130. Mental Health and Aging (1)
 Discusses the impact of mental disorders, especially Alzheimer’s disease (AD) on older individuals and their caregivers. Covers diagnostic criteria and treatment modalities. Course is based on development theories, life course dynamics, and social psychology. (Formerly GERON 180T section)

132. Alzheimer’s Disease (1)
 Focuses on Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) and other related dementias. Course will include a complete assessment, evaluation, and treatment of AD. (Formerly GERON 180T section)

134. Caregiving/Home (2)
 Concepts, theories, and information about formal or informal caregiving. Latest research on caregiver stress and burden. Techniques for teaching the professional or family caregiver the correct methods to use to assess, provide, and evaluate care for frail

homebound elders. (Formerly GERON 180T section)

140. Social Policy and Aging (3)
 An introduction to policies, politics, and programs of an aging society. The course will examine the historical, social, cultural, economic, and demographic issues affecting the elderly and will provide an overview of federal and state legislation and programs for older Americans. (Formerly GERON 180T)

148. Biophysical Aspects of Aging (3)
 (See KINES 148.)

150. Communication and Aging (3)
 (See COMM 150.) (Formerly SPCH 188T section)

161. Multiculture/Aging (3)
 Explores diversity and commonality among older Americans. Analysis of ways demographic, ethnic, cultural, location, and situation topics relate to gerontological concepts, research, and theories. Presents problems with health, socioeconomic, and minority issues. Discusses ageism, racism, and sexism. (Formerly GERON 180T section)

166. Social Gerontology (3)
 (See SOC 166.)

180T. Topics in Gerontology (1-3; max total 9)
 Various topics in the field of aging; subjects such as Alzheimer’s disease, health, aging, and elder abuse. Content varies from semester to semester.

185. Internship in Gerontology (1-6; max total 6)
 Prerequisites: upper division or graduate standing and permission of instructor. Supervised work experience in gerontology. May be coordinated with student’s major, e.g., *business and gerontology*. CR/NC grading only.

190. Independent Study (1-3; max total 6)
 See *Academic Placement — Independent Study*. Approved for SP grading.

IN-SERVICE COURSE

(See *Course Numbering System*.)

Gerontology (GERON)

301. Topics in Gerontology (1-3; max total 6)
 Designed for professionals and pre-professionals working with elders. Topics such as: care of elders in settings such as acute, subacute, transitional, skilled nursing, residential facilities for elderly, long-term, and community; case management; caregivers; and chronic illness and dementia.