

Minor in Gerontology

A minor in Gerontology may be obtained through the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences. Offered through the Sociology Department, this program provides students and practitioners with knowledge and skills necessary for work in the fields of aging and the life course. The minor in Gerontology may be pursued by students enrolled in any undergraduate program and is listed on their transcript when completed prior to graduation.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to analyze changes in psychological, social, and biological domains that occur with increased frequency in later life.
- Students will be able to analyze the life context of older adults (e.g., health, housing, and social services) and identify relevant resources for specific needs.
- Students will be able to conduct an interview and analyze the life story of an older adult in the context of historical, developmental, and contextual influences on later life.

General Requirements for the Gerontology Minor

- Successful completion of at least 18 credit hours of coursework, including an individually planned field experience (GRNT 4980)
- A grade point average of at least 2.0 (C) is required; all courses applied to the minor must be completed with a grade of C- or better
- A portfolio of work completed in classes and an exit interview are required

Course Requirements

Required Core Courses (12 credits)

1. GRNT 3000 - Introduction to Gerontology (E, I)
2. GRNT 2300 - Transitions in Adulthood (E) (may be taken as SOC 2300)
3. GRNT 4630 - Psychology of Aging (may be taken as PSY 3510)
4. GRNT 4980 - Professional Field Experience in Gerontology (3 credit hours minimum; 120 hours of service-learning total, may be split across semesters)

Elective Courses (6 credits)

Complete 6 credit hours from the following (2 courses)

ANTH 3380 - Evolutionary Medicine and Health *NOTE: Requires consent of instructor.
COMM 2600 - Family Communication
GES 3730 - Population Geography *NOTE: This is a 4-credit hour course with a lab component.
GRNT 3560 - Women and Aging International: Diversity, Challenges, and Contributions (may be taken as PSY 3560)
GRNT 2040 - Health and Aging (may be taken as NURS 2090) *formerly Biomedical Aspects of Aging
GRNT 9400 - Independent Study in Gerontology: Undergraduate
HSCI 1020 - Personal Fitness and Wellness
HSCI 3630 - Culture and Health
PHIL 3130 - Biomedical Ethics
PHIL 3160 - Philosophical Issues in Death and Dying
PSY 3650 - Clinical Neuropsychology *NOTE: Requires consent of instructor.
PSY 3060 - Psychology of Health
SOC 4670 - Sociology of Death and Dying
SOC 3310 - Sociology of the Family
SOC 3350 - Sociology of Health and Illness
WEST 3020 - Me, Myself and I: Life Writing, Autobiography, and the Creation of the Self
VAPA 1050 - Visual and Performing Arts Foundation *NOTE: This course and others that are offered with a focus on aging/ life course may be taken with approval from the Gerontology Minor Director. Advanced seminars and travel courses may count toward the minor if topic is relevant (requires permission of Gerontology Minor Director).

Other courses that focus on aging may be approved by the Gerontology Minor Director (mthomas@uccs.edu)

Compass Curriculum Designations: (E) Explore (I) Inclusiveness (N) Navigate

Career information: <https://www.aghe.org/resources/careers-in-aging>

Minor in Gerontology

Benefits of Adding the Gerontology Minor to Any Field of Study

Students! Did you know you can improve your chances of obtaining a job in your degree field by adding the Gerontology Minor to your program, regardless of your major? As our country's demographics change with the aging of the Baby Boomer generation, the needs of elder populations will increase in every aspect of life. Below are some professions that could benefit from a Gerontology Minor. Talk to your advisor about adding the Gerontology Minor to your degree program!

- Social worker (Social Work)
- Nursing and home health aide (Nursing, Health Sciences)
- Mental health provider/associate (Psychology)
- Dementia specialist (Psychology, Nursing, Health Sciences, Engineering)
- Geriatric care provider/manager (Public Administration, Nursing, Health Sciences)
- Geriatric advocate/ombudsman (Social Work, Sociology, Public Affairs/Administration)
- Human resources director (Public Administration, Economics, Public Policy, Sociology, WEST)
- Healthcare business manager (Economics, Public Administration)
- Assistive and mobility technologies (Engineering, Computer Science)
- End-of-life planning (Economics, Family Studies, Social Work, Sociology, Public Administration)
- Social science researcher on aging (Sociology, Social Work, WEST)
- Physical science researcher on aging (Biology, Nursing, Chemistry, Health Sciences)
- Psychology researcher on aging (Psychology)
- Demographics/culture researcher (Geography, Anthropology)
- Public policies on aging (Public Affairs, Political Science, Criminology, Sociology, Social Work, WEST)
- Grant writer (Public Affairs, English, Communication)
- Personal assistant (Social Work, Sociology, Health Sciences)
- Art/creative movement therapists (VAPA, Art, Exercise Science)
- Grief/life course counselor (Sociology, Social Work, Psychology, Family Studies, Philosophy)
- Pharmacist (Biology, Chemistry/Biochemistry, Nursing)
- Assisted living administrator (Public Administration, Sociology, Social Work, Health Sciences, Economics)
- Healthy aging educator (Biology, Health Sciences, Sociology, Psychology)
- Nutritionist/dietician (Biology, Biochemistry, Nursing, Health Sciences)
- Physical/occupational therapist (Biology, Nursing, Health Sciences, Exercise Science)
- Legal representative/elder law (Criminal Justice, Public Administration, Political Science)
- Filmmaker/documentarian (VAPA, Digital Filmmaking, Media Communication, English/Writing)
- Radio/TV producer (Radio/TV, Filmmaking, Media Communication, English/Writing, VAPA)
- ASL interpreter (Languages & Cultures)
- Forensic/medical anthropologist (Anthropology)