

## **Program Drop Proposal**

# **Gerontology, 2+3 Program in Fine Art & Gerontology**

The 2+3 Program in Fine Arts & Gerontology combines the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art (BFA) and Master of Science in Gerontology (MSG) degrees for students interested in applied training in these professional fields. The program is designed for students with recognized academic ability and the maturity to fulfill integrated requirements of the undergraduate and master's degree programs from the beginning of their junior year.

In this accelerated 2+3 Program, four courses (12 credits) taken after the student achieves graduate status are applied to both degrees. 2+3 students usually achieve graduate status after the sophomore year. A carefully designed plan of study can permit the student to earn both BFA and MSG degrees within as few as ten semesters.

Successful admission to the BFA Program is a prerequisite for the 2+3 Program in Fine Arts & Gerontology. Subsequent admission to the 2+3 Program is a two-step process: (1) provisional to (2) formal admission. Applicants are considered for provisional admission anytime during their freshman or sophomore year (and no later than the fifth enrolled semester). An interview with the Gerontology Program Director is required. Past academic performance and the student's potential to succeed in applied graduate studies are considered. The Gerontology Program Director decides on provisional admission and notifies the applicant in writing (email).

Provisional 2+3 students have undergraduate status and should enroll in courses (4000 level and below) to meet general education, undergraduate elective, and BFA requirements only. Provisional students may not take graduate level courses and earn graduate credit. Any gerontology-related courses taken in provisional status may count towards allowed electives only.

The second step in the admission process occurs at the end of the sophomore year, and no later than the junior year (i.e., once 60-90 undergraduate credits have been earned). This step involves an interview with the Gerontology Program Director and submission of two letters of recommendation from UMSL faculty. A cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher indicates good standing and is required (in most cases) for formal admission to the 2+3 Program. Final decisions concerning formal admission are made by the Graduate Dean in consultation with the Program Director. Students admitted at this stage are conferred graduate status and may take courses intended for graduate credit at this time.

In qualifying for the BFA, students must meet all University and college requirements. In qualifying for the MSG, students must meet all University and Graduate School requirements.

The combined 2+3 Program requires a minimum of 144 credit hours, of which a minimum of 36 graduate credits must be at the 4000, 5000, or 6000 levels. Up to 12 graduate credit hours may be applied simultaneously to both the BFA and MSG programs.

Any 4000 level course applied to the MSG will require additional work to qualify for graduate credit. 4000 level courses taken before graduate status is conferred will apply to the undergraduate requirements only. Students are encouraged to work closely with their BFA advisor and the Gerontology Program Director to ensure that required courses are timed appropriately.

A seamless transition from undergraduate to graduate status is the ideal, but it may not occur in all cases. A process exists for the Graduate Dean to review and approve up to two courses (6 credits) taken with undergraduate status for later graduate credit.

Formal 2+3 Program students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher throughout the combined program. At the time of graduation, 2+3 students with a GPA below 3.0 will be issued the BFA degree and a Gerontology Minor. Students who withdraw from the 2+3 Program will be awarded the BFA degree when they have successfully completed all the requirements for that degree.

## **Undergraduate requirements for students in the 2+3 Program in Fine Arts (Studio Art) & Gerontology**

Courses taken with undergraduate or graduate status:

Students must complete the required 30 hours of the Foundation Art Program (see BFA Studio Arts bulletin page).

Students must complete 42 hours in one of the defined Studio Art emphasis areas (see BFA Studio Arts bulletin page).

Students must complete 15 hours of Art History, with at least 9 hours taken in residence at UMSL (see BFA Studio Arts bulletin page).

## **Graduate requirements for students in the 2+3 Program in Fine Arts (Studio Art) & Gerontology**

Courses (36 hours) taken with graduate status only (junior year and after full admission):

GERON 4720	Ageless Arts: Creativity in Later Life	3
ST ART 4496	Senior Studio Seminar	3
ST ART 4497	Senior Seminar in Graphic Design I	3
ST ART/GERON 4600	Practicum in Arts Education, Activity & Senior Service	
GERON 5376	Psychopathology and Aging	3
GERON 5440	Sociocultural Aspects of Aging	3
GERON 6441	Aging and Health Behavior	3
GERON 6444	Seminar in Public Policy and Aging	3
GERON 6450	Gerontological Assessment	3

GERON 5420 & GERON 5450	Research Methods and Analysis I and Research Methods and Analysis II	6
GERON 6496	Advanced Practicum in Gerontology	3
Total Hours		33

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

Department	Contact Person	Phone #	Objections
S007450	Maureen Quigley	314-516-5670	No
S007250	Rocky Keel	314-516-6052	No

Rationale