

Gerontological Studies Undergraduate Certificate

Opportunities and challenges of human aging intersect with most academic and professional disciplines. Older adults receive a range of health, social, economic and other support services (e.g. through government programs, medical centers, senior centers, long-term care facilities, not-for-profit agencies) in order to age successfully at home or elsewhere.

The proportion of older adults in the US population will grow substantially in coming decades. The 15 credit hour Undergraduate Certificate in Gerontological Studies (UCGS) is designed to prepare students for entry level, service-oriented positions in this growing marketplace.

The UCGS adds a tangible credential for future work with and for older adults, and it can be pursued with any major area of study with proper planning. Please contact the Gerontology Program Coordinator to learn more and for an advising appointment.

General Requirements

The certificate is 15 credit hours. All students must take SOC 2170/GERON 2170: Aging in America: Concepts & Controversies (3-credit hours). An additional 9 credit hours of GERON elective courses must include at least 6 credit hours at the 3000-level or above. Students will complete a capstone (minimum of 3 credit hours) that entails an internship or practicum in an aging setting, or research or readings resulting in an aging-related paper or project.

Substitutions or alternative courses may be included with approval of the Program Coordinator for Gerontology. At least 9 of the 15 hours required for the certificate must be taken at UMSL. Students must achieve a grade of C- or higher in the required course, elective courses, and the capstone to qualify for this minor.

~~Introduction~~ Required Course

SOC/GERON 2170	Aging in America: Concepts & Controversies	3
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Electives

Complete at least 9 elective hours in GERON, with at least 6 hours at the 3000 level or above. ¹ 9

Capstone

~~GERON 4400 Social & Community Services for an Aging Population-2~~ 3

A capstone course (minimum of 3 credit hours) is a 3000- or 4000-level aging-related research, directed readings, independent studies, internship or practicum course that is not already used as an elective for the certificate. This course must be approved, in advance, by the Gerontology Program Coordinator. ² 3

Total Hours 15

¹ Additional courses approved for the certificate include: PSYCH 2268: Lifespan Developmental Psychology, SOC WK 3510: Human Behavior in the Social Environment, and GS 3700/SOC WK 3700: Diversity and Social Justice. ~~Courses~~ Other courses that are aging-related but not cross-listed with GERON may be substituted with the approval of the Gerontology Program Coordinator.

² ~~An alternative aging-related practicum/field experience from a student's major field may be substituted with the approval of the Gerontology Program Coordinator.~~ Examples of capstone courses that may be allowed include: GERON 4490: Directed Readings, PSYCH 3295: Selected Projects in Field Placement, SOC 4350: Special Study, SOC 4385: Internship in Sociology, SOC WK 4800: Supervised Field Experience in Social Work I, or SOC WK 4850: Supervised Field Experience in Social Work II.

If other departments are affected by this proposal, please secure "sign-offs" and indicate for each department the following:

Department	Contact Person	Phone #	Objections
Sociology	Jim Craig	6037	No
Psychology	Ann Steffen	5382	No

Justification for request:

Added clarity to the program pathway for students.

Updated acceptable course work that is not GERON prefix.

Confirmed that students may earn C- or higher in all minor coursework.

Updated modality because some courses are offered online.