

Gerontology

Interdepartmental Minor and Interinstitutional Program

The gerontology program is designed for students desiring careers in aging-related fields and for students interested in improving their understanding of aging persons in American society. Students are expected to take courses to develop the necessary interdisciplinary breadth which, in combination with other disciplinary training, can prepare them to work with older adults.

Graduates understand the ways in which individual and societal aging influence, and are impacted by, developments in their major field of study. They have an appreciation and understanding of the cross-disciplinary aspects of human aging.

Gerontology courses are offered in the interdepartmental gerontology program in the following participating departments and programs: Architecture; Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Molecular Biology; Economics; Apparel, Educational Studies, and Hospitality Management, Food Science and Human Nutrition; Kinesiology; Human Development and Family Studies; Political Science; Psychology; and Sociology.

Undergraduate Study

Undergraduate study in this program provides the student with an opportunity to develop a minor in gerontology. A balanced grouping of courses assists the student in developing both a sensitivity to the issues and the ability to synthesize ideas from the variety of disciplines important to the study of the aging process.

Minor

Undergraduate students may minor in gerontology by taking 16 semester hours of gerontology related courses. Nine of these credits must come from the following courses:

GERON 373	Death as a Part of Living	3
GERON 377	Aging and the Family	3
GERON 378	Retirement Planning and Employee Benefits	3
GERON 463	Environments for the Aging	3

Students will participate in a prepracticum seminar, GERON 466 Gerontology Prepracticum Seminar, and will complete a supervised field practicum after all gerontology coursework is completed (GERON 467 Gerontology Practicum). A minimum of 3 semester credits must be selected from a list of supportive gerontology related courses. Supportive courses include units or topics related to aging and can be used to complement the student's major interests. The student's minor program must be approved by the undergraduate gerontology coordinator.

Graduate Study

A declared graduate minor in gerontology consists of a minimum of 12 credits taken from a list of acceptable courses, and from at least two departments. Nine of the 12 credits must be in courses that are focused specifically on aging. One 590 course (3 credits maximum) can be taken as part of the 12 credits. GERON 510 Survey of Gerontology is required for all minor students. At least one member of the gerontology faculty will be on a student's advisory committee; this person must be a member of the Graduate Faculty. Contact the coordinator to determine whether courses other than those listed below are available.

Interinstitutional Program

Iowa State University offers a Master's degree in Family and Consumer Sciences with specialization in gerontology. This is an interinstitutional distance education program offered through the Web. The student selects the home institution, which grants the degree. After admission at the home institution, the student takes courses from each of the seven institutions: Iowa State University, Kansas State University, North Dakota State University, Oklahoma State University, Texas Tech University, the University of Arkansas, and the University of Missouri.

The master's degree consists of 36 semester hours, 24 of these hours are from the following courses:

GERON 530	Perspectives in Gerontology	3
GERON 534	Adult Development	3
GERON 540	Nutrition and Physical Activity in Aging	3
GERON 545	Economics, Public Policy, and Aging	3
GERON 563	Environments for the Aging	3
GERON 577	Aging in the Family Setting	3
GERON 584	Program Evaluation and Research Methods in Gerontology	3
GERON 594	Professional Seminar in Gerontology	3

The remaining 12 credits will include electives and specific courses needed to meet the requirements of the institution awarding the degree. Neither a thesis nor a creative component is required.

Gerontology Graduate Certificate Program

The 21-credit Graduate Certificate Program in Gerontology includes the following courses from the list of core courses:

GERON 530	Perspectives in Gerontology	3
GERON 534	Adult Development	3
GERON 540	Nutrition and Physical Activity in Aging	3
GERON 594	Professional Seminar in Gerontology	3

The additional six credits required for the certificate can be chosen from the remaining core courses or from other approved elective courses. A maximum of three credits of practicum also can be included in the elective credits.

Admission Procedures: Admission to the Gerontology Certificate Program requires exactly the same procedures as admission to the Graduate College. See Graduate College section of the catalog.

Registration: Students choosing to receive their degree from Iowa State University complete all the admissions, registration, and fee payment processes through ISU.