
Gerontology

In the School of Social Work
In the College of Health and Human Services

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Faculty

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Offered by the School of Social Work

Master of Science degree in gerontology.
Major in gerontology with the B.A degree in liberal arts and sciences.
Minor in gerontology.
Certificate in applied gerontology (offered only in Extension).

The Major

Gerontology concerns itself with the study and application of knowledge about the physical, social, and economic conditions of older people. Since the process of aging touches all aspects of human activity, gerontology is multidisciplinary in nature. Gerontology is becoming a major area of research in the biological, behavioral, and social sciences.

Every day there is a net increase of 1,000 Americans 65 years of age and over. This is an increase of more than 3,500,000 elderly persons per year. With this striking increase has come a growing need for more trained professionals to apply new knowledge about the elderly. Such knowledge is needed for planning and developing programs and services which improve the quality of life for older Americans.

Gerontological training and research is an important link in meeting the social, physical, and psychological needs of the elderly. Students of gerontology benefit through the personal understanding of their own aging process. Those wishing to pursue careers in aging will find many exciting opportunities for serving the elderly in a variety of settings.

One of the primary goals of the gerontology program is to provide students with a broad base for comprehensive understanding of the impact of society's changing demographics on every aspect of their social and work lives. It is through research, teaching, and community involvement that faculty members from numerous disciplines provide for the intellectual development of students, the enhancement of community programs, and the assurance of a better quality of life for older people in the community, the state, and the nation.

Advising

All College of Health and Human Services majors are urged to consult with their department adviser as soon as possible; they are required to meet with their department adviser within the first two semesters after declaration or change of major.

Impacted Program

The gerontology major is an impacted program. To be admitted to the gerontology major, students must meet the following criteria:

- Complete preparation for the major;
- Complete a minimum of 60 transferable semester units;
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into the premajor at SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).

Major Academic Plans (MAPs)

Visit <http://www.sdsu.edu/mymap> for the recommended courses needed to fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs Web site was created to help students navigate the course requirements for their majors and to identify which General Education course will also fulfill a major preparation course requirement.

Gerontology Major

With the B.A Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences
(Major Code: 21043) (SIMS Code: 551902)

All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on "Graduation Requirements." No more than 48 units in gerontology courses can apply to the degree.

A minor is not required with this major.

Preparation for the Major. Gerontology 101, 250; Biology 100; Child and Family Development 135; Public Health 101; Psychology 101; and Social Work 110. (21 units)

Language Requirement. Competency (successfully completing the third college semester or fifth college quarter) is required in one foreign language to fulfill the graduation requirement. Refer to the section of the catalog on "Graduation Requirements."

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 10 or above or completing one of the approved upper division writing courses (W) with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See "Graduation Requirements" section for a complete listing of requirements.

International Experience. All gerontology majors are required to participate in an international experience to increase awareness of cross-cultural issues, global health, economic, political, cultural, social services, and health challenges experienced by local populations in international environments. Students participate in residence for two or more weeks (exceptions must be approved by the dean of the college for students who, because of serious and compelling life events or physical limitations, cannot meet this requirement). Specific details can be found at <http://www.chhs.sdsu.edu/international>.

Major. A minimum of 36 upper division units to include Gerontology 350, 360, 370, 400A, 400B, 402, 520, 522; and 12 units selected with approval of the adviser from Child and Family Development 335; Gerontology 496, 499, and 596 (when appropriate); Exercise and Nutritional Sciences 433; Psychology 456; Social Work 420*.

* Prerequisites waived.

Gerontology Minor

(SIMS Code: 551901)

The minor in gerontology consists of a minimum of 18 units selected from Gerontology 101, 350, 360, 370, 400A, 400B, 402, 499, 522, 596; Child and Family Development 496*; Exercise and Nutritional Sciences 433; Social Work 120, 420; Sociology 496*.

Additional prerequisites may be required for the courses in the minor.

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major or the certificate, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

*When relevant.

Certificate in Applied Gerontology

(Offered only in Extension)

(Certificate Code: 90023) (SIMS Code: 551903)

This program is designed for persons working in the field of aging as well as those interested in obtaining employment in the aging field. Completion of the certificate program will enable participants to assume greater responsibility by broadening their knowledge of and skill in this specialty area. More specifically, the program is designed to provide the following:

1. A broad knowledge base in the bio-psycho-social aspects of aging.

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2. Practical knowledge and skills in the application of this information towards services for older people.
3. Knowledge of government programs and program planning and evaluation techniques.
4. Knowledge of programs and services operating in local areas as well as gaps which exist in local programming.
5. Knowledge and skills needed to function in an advocacy capacity to improve services to the elderly.

Certificate Requirements:

1. Complete 18 semester units of coursework with a grade point average of 2.0 or better.
2. Complete coursework within four years after admission to the program.
3. Petition the College of Extended Studies for the certificate upon completion of 18 semester units.

To be admitted to the program, students are expected to show by previous coursework and/or experience some evidence of potential for completing the academic program. Previous courses in gerontology taken at SDSU or at other universities will be considered for credit toward certification on an individual basis, but not to exceed nine units.

The School of Social Work is responsible for the coordination of the certificate program in conjunction with the College of Extended Studies. Admission applications may be obtained from the College of Extended Studies. Applications may be submitted prior to entering the program or before the completion of nine semester units of coursework.

Students are required to submit an Open University Registration Form each semester to the College of Extended Studies.

Students accepted into the program will be assigned an adviser by the School of Social Work.

Required Courses for the Certificate Program

A minimum of 12 semester units must be selected from the following areas inclusive of the practicum:

I. Introduction to Gerontology

Gerontology 101. Introduction to Human Aging (3)

II. Psychological Aspects of Aging

Psychology 350. Abnormal Psychology (3)

III. Sociological Aspects of Aging

Gerontology 250. Intergenerational Issues and the Elderly (3)

Gerontology 350. Social Policy and Aging (3)

IV. Practicum

Gerontology 400A or 400B. Practicum in Gerontology (3) (Cr/NC)

Elective Courses

A minimum of six semester units selected from the following:

Gerontology 360. Diversity and Aging (3)

Gerontology 370. Images of Aging in Contemporary Society (3)

Gerontology 402. The Aging Network (3)

Gerontology 499. Special Study (1-3)

Gerontology 520. An Inside Look at Aging Programs—Program Analysis (3)

Gerontology 596. Advanced Special Topics in Gerontology (1-4)

Women's Studies 310. Women in Cross-Cultural Perspective (3)

Courses (GERO)

Refer to *Courses and Curricula and University Policies* sections of this catalog for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

LOWER DIVISION COURSES

GERO 101. Introduction to Human Aging (3) [GE]

Overview of field of gerontology, including demographic trends, basic theories, concepts and philosophic ideas, social policies, planning issues, and services available to meet needs and problems of older adults.

GERO 250. Intergenerational Issues and the Elderly (3)

Controversial issues surrounding interpersonal relations between older adults and other age groups.

GERO 296. Experimental Topics (1-4)

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Intended for Undergraduates)

GERO 350. Social Policy and Aging (3)

Prerequisite: Gerontology 101.

Policy development process including analyses, evaluation, and advocacy. Social controversies about aging of populations. Review of U. S. Social Security and Medicare. Analysis of Older Americans Act.

GERO 360. Diversity and Aging (3) [GE]

Prerequisite: Gerontology 101 or completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning IIB, Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.

Attitudes and cultural values related to aging members of ethnic and minority groups. Influences of class, gender, sexual orientation, economic resources and health on aging process.

GERO 370. Images of Aging in Contemporary Society (3) [GE]

Prerequisite: Gerontology 101 or completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning IIB, Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.

Impact of current cultural attitudes and values on images of older persons. Influence of media and advertising in creating views and perceptions of aging. Major myths and stereotypes.

GERO 400A-400B. Practicum in Gerontology (3-3) Cr/NC

Two hundred hours of internship.

Prerequisites: Gerontology 350, 360, 370.

Integration of theoretical background and practical experience in providing services to elderly. Fieldwork and observation in settings providing services to the elderly. Direct experience in aging projects relevant to their field of interest.

GERO 402. Aging Network (3)

Prerequisite: Three units in gerontology.

Networks, programs, and services available to older adults in communities. Effectiveness of programs that assist older adults to age successfully.

GERO 496. Experimental Topics (1-4)

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

GERO 499. Special Study (1-3)

Prerequisite: Consent of department chair.

Individual study. Maximum credit six units.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Also Acceptable for Advanced Degrees)

GERO 520. Analysis of Programs for the Aging (3)

Prerequisite: One upper division course in gerontology.

Major programs in aging that support daily functioning of elderly. Effectiveness of programs in serving today's elderly with attention to ethnic and cross-cultural variations.

GERO 522. International Issues on Aging (3)

Prerequisite: Three units in gerontology.

Socio-economic implications of rapidly growing number and proportion of older people around the world. Comparative study of aging populations in different countries, analysis and evaluation of related policies and programs.

GERO 596. Advanced Special Topics in Gerontology (1-4)

Advanced selected topics in gerontology. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum credit of six units of 596 applicable to a bachelor's degree. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

GRADUATE COURSES Refer to the *Graduate Bulletin*.

Greek – Refer to “Classics” in this section of the catalog.
Health Science – Refer to “Public Health” in this section of the catalog.