

Gerontology

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

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Faculty

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Assistantships

Graduate teaching and research assistantships in gerontology are available to a limited number of qualified students. Information regarding the availability of funds and the process for application may be obtained from the School of Social Work.

General Information

The Master of Science degree in gerontology is supported by interdisciplinary faculty from several departments. The program is administered by the School of Social Work. The primary goal of the Gerontology Graduate Program is to offer high-quality interdisciplinary education and training that focus on the core areas of gerontology such as theories of aging, aging policy, long-term care, research methodology, design, development, administration, and evaluation of programs for the aged. The program is committed to preparing students to enter positions in administration and management in a variety of organizations serving older adults. This goal will be accomplished by offering coursework and field experience aimed at providing the necessary knowledge and skills to encourage/promote gerontology competencies and evidence-based administration and management as related to older adults.

Admission to Graduate Study

The student must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the university with classified standing, as described in Part Two of this bulletin. Students whose preparation is deemed insufficient by the gerontology admissions committee may be admitted as conditionally classified and will be required to complete specific courses in addition to the minimum 36 units required for the degree. Students from other disciplines are encouraged to apply. Applicants should have a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) during the last 60 semester units of undergraduate college/university coursework. The grade point average must be in concurrence with Division of Graduate Affairs requirements for admission. Admission requirements are outlined in the graduate application package for an advanced degree in gerontology at San Diego State University.

Students applying for admission should electronically submit the university application available at <http://www.calstate.edu/apply> along with the \$55 application fee.

All applicants must submit admissions materials separately to SDSU Graduate Admissions and to the School of Social Work.

Graduate Admissions

The following materials should be submitted as a complete package directly to:

Graduate Admissions
Enrollment Services
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

- (1) Official transcripts (in sealed envelopes) from all postsecondary institutions attended;

NOTE:

- Students who attended SDSU need only submit transcripts for work completed since last attendance.
- Students with international coursework must submit both the official transcript and proof of degree. If documents are in a language other than English, they must be accompanied by a certified English translation.

- (2) GRE scores (<http://www.ets.org> SDSU institution code 4682);
(3) English language score, if medium of instruction was in a language other than English (<http://www.ets.org> SDSU institution code 4682).

School of Social Work

The following materials should be submitted by March 1 for the fall semester to:

School of Social Work
(Attention: Gerontology Graduate Adviser)
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-4452

- (1) Three letters of reference in support of your application from academic references;
(2) Personal statement outlining your goals, background, interests, and abilities;
(3) Curriculum vitae or resume.

Advancement to Candidacy

All students must pass the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as described in Part Four of this bulletin. Advancement to candidacy is contingent upon classified graduate status, completion of 12 semester units with a minimum grade point average of 3.0, satisfactory completion of an oral examination with a minimum grade of B and approval of the Graduate Council. Advancement to candidacy will be conferred prior to graduation.

Specific Requirements for the Master of Science Degree

(Major Code: 21043) (SIMS Code: 551904)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the Master of Science degree as described in Part Four of this bulletin, the student must complete a minimum of 36 units. The program consists of 30 units of required core courses and six units of electives.

Core Curriculum Requirements. A minimum of 30 units is required in the following core courses:

GERO 520	Analysis of Programs for the Aging	3
GERO 601	Theory and Application in Gerontology and Aging	3
GERO 605	Long-Term Care	3
GERO 690/ SWORK 690	Seminar in Research Methods for Social Work and Gerontology	3
GERO 700A GERO 740/ SWORK 740	Practicum (Cr/NC)	3
	Advanced Seminar in Administration and Community Development in Social Work and Gerontology	3
SWORK 610	Computer Application in Practice for Social Work and Gerontology	3
SWORK 632	Social Work and Gerontology: Organizations and Communities	3
SWORK 702	Seminar in Selected Social Welfare Policy and Services	3
GERO 799A GERO 700B	Thesis (Plan A) OR Practicum (Plan B)	3

Electives. A minimum of six units of electives is required. Selected with the approval of the student's adviser, electives must include courses in gerontology or departments related to gerontology. Any gerontology graduate course or 500- to 700-level courses not taken for credit in the core curriculum qualify as electives. The breadth of courses available to supplement the core of required courses will be extensive, and draw on resources from across the university.

Plan A: Students who complete Plan A, Thesis option for the M.S. degree in gerontology must include Gerontology 799A (Thesis) in the 30-unit program, complete Gerontology 797 as one of the electives, and pass a final oral examination on the thesis.

Plan B: Students in Plan B must include Gerontology 700B to fulfill core requirements and pass a comprehensive written examination.

Courses Acceptable for Master's Degree Program in Gerontology (GERO)

Refer to *Courses and Curricula and Regulations of the Division of Graduate Affairs* sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES

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 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

GERO 601. Theory and Application in Gerontology and Aging (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Concepts and theory in gerontology, theory construction, application of theory to research. Theoretical models and special topics.

GERO 605. Long-Term Care (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Issues and problems in a changing long-term care delivery system for older people in a multi-cultural society. Emphasis on frailty of the elderly, demand for affordable long-term care, and analysis of federal and state policies shaping the industry.

GERO 690. Seminar in Research Methods for Social Work and Gerontology (3) **(Same course as Social Work 690)**

Research development, design, and methodology. Application to social work and gerontology in testing theories, advancing practice knowledge, and decision-making.

GERO 696. Contemporary Topics in Gerontology and Geriatrics Seminar (3)

Prerequisite: A graduate level course in gerontology.

Areas of gerontology and geriatrics that make an immediate impact on the quality of life and lifestyles of the elderly. To include diverse life situations of older people. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

GERO 700A-700B. Practicum (3-3) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Gerontology 601.

Supervised field placement in public or private setting. Application of gerontological theory, policy, objectives, principles, and skills in service to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

GERO 740. Advanced Seminar in Administration and Community Development in Social Work and Gerontology (3) **(Same course as Social Work 740)**

Prerequisites: Social Work 632 and concurrent registration in Gerontology 700A or Social Work 755.

Human services program design, strategic planning, marketing, organizational performance management, human resource management, and development of grant proposals.

GERO 797. Research (1-3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Research in an area of gerontology. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

GERO 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisite: Consent of adviser.

Individual study. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

GERO 799A. Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.

Preparation of a thesis for the master's degree.

GERO 799B. Thesis Extension (0) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP.

Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis is granted final approval.

GERO 799C. Comprehensive Examination Extension (0) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Completion or concurrent enrollment in degree program courses.

Registration required of students whose only requirement is completion of the comprehensive examination for the master's degree. Registration in 799C limited to two semesters.
