



COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCES

MASTER OF ARTS IN GERONTOLOGY

Become an Advocate for Society's Senior Population

In the Master of Arts in Gerontology program, you'll embark on a study of aging that examines the physical, mental, and social changes in individuals as they grow from middle age through later life. You'll see how an aging population influences and impacts society and find ways to apply this understanding to improve policies and programs. While developing strategies for working with older adults, you'll consider physical, cognitive, and emotional changes and learn to design and implement strategies to address challenges faced by aging individuals as well as opportunities. In the process, you'll learn effective ways to use technology in case management, program assessment, and

advocacy. The program is ideal for professionals in the allied fields wishing to explore gerontology as a specialty.

Program highlights:

- Entire program can be completed online
- Examine entrenched ideas about aging from a fresh perspective
- Advocate for public policies that improve the health and well-being of older adults
- Become well-versed in legal and ethical issues relevant to gerontology
- Explore ways to address challenges for older adults and their communities

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MASTER OF ARTS IN GERONTOLOGY

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The Master of Arts in Gerontology fosters development of the conceptual and clinical foundations necessary to design and provide strengths-based services to our aging population and to develop methods of inquiry and innovative practices to address the evolving needs of the growing numbers of aging persons in their communities. The intended enrollees in the Master of Arts in Gerontology program are mid-career professionals who want to increase their proficiency in this area of specialization or who want to re-specialize, having worked in allied fields.

Coursework in the Master of Arts in Gerontology program can be tailored for (1) those currently providing or those who plan to provide direct services to older adults, (2) those whose practice and/or scholarly work will focus on older adults or on issues relating to aging, and (3) those whose work for public and/or private organizations will address the needs and concerns of older adults. Graduates with a Master of Arts in Gerontology will be prepared to work in a variety of settings including:

- Community, human service, and religious organizations
- Health care and long-term care institutions
- Federal, state, and local government agencies
- Retirement communities
- Academic and other educational and research settings
- Professional organizations
- Business and industry

Learning experiences in the Master of Arts in Gerontology program are based in an advocacy/participatory system of inquiry and case-based pedagogy suitable for adult mid-career professionals. Online tools are used to help build and sustain learning communities through collaborative inquiry.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Design and implement strengths-based strategies to address the challenges and opportunities facing societies and families as members age.
- Develop strategies for working with older adults that take into consideration age-related physical, cognitive, and emotional changes.
- Solve problems facing older individuals or organizations serving them using knowledge of assessment and evidence-based practice, as well as an understanding of relevant legal and ethical issues.
- Examine their own presumptions and biases about older adults and develop a deep appreciation for the paradoxes inherent in the aging process.
- Use contemporary modes of information technology and communications media in case management, program assessment, and advocacy.
- Advocate for public policies that improve the health and well-being of older adults and their families.
- Conduct applied research that addresses challenges or opportunities for older adults and their communities.

Degree Requirements

To earn the Master of Arts in Gerontology, students must complete at least 54 quarter units of graduate work, including an integrative project for 9 quarter units. A total of 13.5 quarter units of graduate credit may be granted for equivalent graduate work completed at another regionally accredited institution, as it applies to this degree and provided the units were not used in earning another advanced degree. Refer to the section on graduate admission requirements for specific information regarding application and evaluation.

Core Requirements

(7 courses; 31.5 quarter units)

AGE 601 Foundations of Gerontology I
AGE 602 Foundations of Gerontology II

Please choose **three (3)** of the following:

AGE 610 Wellness/Engagement in Aging
Prerequisite: AGE 602
AGE 611 Psychology of Older Adults
Prerequisite: AGE 602
AGE 612 Public Policy and Aging
Prerequisite: AGE 601
AGE 613 Counseling Older Adults
Prerequisite: AGE 602

AGE 614 Cross-cultural Practice
Prerequisite: AGE 601
AGE 615 Managing Aging Services
Prerequisite: AGE 601

Project Requirements

AGE 620 Integrative Project A
Prerequisite: AGE 601 with a minimum grade of B- and AGE 602 with a minimum grade of B-.
AGE 630 Integrative Project B
Prerequisite: AGE 601 with a minimum grade of B-, AGE 602 with a minimum grade of B- and AGE 620 with a minimum grade of B-.

Elective Requirements

(5 courses; 22.5 quarter units)

AGE 616 Physical Change and Aging
HUB 601D Creative Leadership
HUB 601B Communication for Managers
BER 600 Intro to Bereavement Studies
BER 604 Dying Patient and the Family
Prerequisite: BER 600
HCA 626 Healthcare Information Systems
Prerequisite: HCA 620
HCA 628 HA Human Resources Management
Prerequisite: HCA 622