
Gerontology

In the College of Health and Human Services

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Faculty

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Adjunct Faculty

Joaquin Anguera, Ph.D., Health and Human Services, General
Jerry Goodman, Ph.D., Health and Human Services, General
Joe Ramsdell, M.D., University of California, San Diego
Diane Schneider, M.D., University of California, San Diego
Dolores A. Wozniak, Ed.D., Nursing
Anne Marie Yamada, Ph.D., Health and Human Services, General
Maria E. Zuniga, Ph.D., Social Work

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 main office of the University Center on Aging.

General Information

The Master of Science degree in gerontology is supported by faculty from several departments. The program is administered by the office of gerontology. The program is designed to provide systematic advanced education in gerontology for those planning to enter professions related to higher education, social services, health services, government, or business. The program will provide education for those interested in the area of policy, theory and its applications, health and aging, community services, program development, and biostatistical evaluation. Students will gain a better understanding of the roles of older people and their contributions to society. The program will also prepare students for entry to doctoral level education.

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. In addition, students are required

to request three letters of reference in support of their application from academic referees, submit a personal statement outlining their goals, background, interests, and abilities, and have a satisfactory score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) for verbal and quantitative sections combined. 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 Graduate Division requirements for admission. Admission requirements are outlined in the graduate application package for an advanced degree in gerontology at San Diego State University.

Advancement to Candidacy

All students must pass the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as described in Part Two 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)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the Master of Science degree as described in Part Two 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:

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| Gerontology 530 Research Methods and Evaluation | 3 units |
| Gerontology 601 Theory in Gerontology | 3 units |
| Gerontology 602 Policy Development, Analysis, and Evaluation | 3 units |
| Gerontology 603 Healthy Aging | 3 units |
| Gerontology 604 Program Planning and Development | 3 units |
| Gerontology 605 Long-Term Care | 3 units |
| Gerontology 700 Practicum (Cr/NC) | 3 units |
| Gerontology 797 Research (Cr/NC/RP) | 3 units |
| Gerontology 799A Thesis (Cr/NC/RP) | 3 units |
| Public Health 602 Biostatistics | 3 units |

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.

Thesis Option. The student will complete Plan A, Thesis option for the M.S. degree in gerontology.

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

UPPER DIVISION COURSES

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.

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.

530. Research Methods and Evaluation (3)

Prerequisites: Course in elementary statistics and satisfaction of the Entry-Level Mathematics requirement. Recommended: Sociology 201.

Research methodology, assessment, and evaluation in gerontology. Basic statistical techniques in evaluating gerontology databases. Methods, statistical procedures, hypothesis testing, evaluation, use of tables and graphs, and use of gerontology databases. SPSS using gerontology databases for instruction.

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

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 or master's degree. Maximum combined credit of six units of 596 and 696 applicable to a 30-unit master's degree

GRADUATE COURSES

601. Theory in Gerontology (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

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

602. Policy Development, Analysis, and Evaluation (3)

Prerequisites: Gerontology 601 and consent of instructor.

History, analysis, and assessment of current state and national policies and policy impacts on older people. Policy evaluation and recommendations from identification of gaps in policy that impact older people's access to programs and services. Conduct legislative visits and interact with policy-makers.

603. Healthy Aging (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Concepts of healthy aging. Analysis of approaches, methods, and applications from research about lifestyle, behavior change, prevention and health promotion, community health, work and productivity, belief systems, cognitive assessments. Emphasis on prevention and maintenance of health.

604. Program Planning and Development (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Design and development of aging programs. Needs assessment skills, program activities, evaluation methods, administrative and budget development in concert with selected agencies.

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.

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.

700. Practicum (3) Cr/NC

Prerequisites: Gerontology 530 and 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.

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.

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

Prerequisite: Consent of adviser.

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

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.

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.