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# Gerontology

In the College of Health and Human Services

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## Faculty

Mario D. Garrett, Ph.D., Professor of Gerontology, Chair of Department  
Barbara C. DuBois, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Gerontology  
Paula M. Usita, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Gerontology

## Adjunct Faculty

Dolores A. Wozniak, Ed.D., Nursing

## 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 Department of Gerontology.

## General Information

The Master of Science degree in gerontology is supported by faculty from several departments. The program is administered by the Department 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:

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

**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

##### **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 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 of 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.

##### **GERO 540. Physical Function and Disease Prevention (3)**

Prerequisites: One course in gerontology; Community Health Education 101 or 406; Psychology 101.

Physical functioning of older persons and diseases related to age changes. Healthy aging, assessments of frailty, risk factors related to diseases of aging, current medical and health promotion interventions directed to risk reduction and healthy aging.

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

#### GRADUATE COURSES

##### **GERO 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.

##### **GERO 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.

##### **GERO 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.

##### **GERO 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.

##### **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 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.

##### **GERO 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.

##### **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.

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