

GERONTOLOGY

College of Health and Social Sciences

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School of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement

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Gerontology Program

HSS 261

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Program Scope

Purpose

The Gerontology Program (GRN) is administratively housed in the School of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE) within the College of Health and Social Sciences (CHSS); it enjoys close collaborative relationships with other units throughout the College, University, and with the communities it serves. The Master of Arts (M.A.) in Gerontology is an applied, professional program designed for students preparing for a career in aging-related fields. Coursework leading to the M.A. in Gerontology is designed to provide students with:

- interdisciplinary education of issues related to aging and older adults;
- working knowledge of theoretical foundations which links the micro and macro aspects of aging;
- academic and practical training necessary for professional practice and leadership positions in the public and private sectors in aging-related fields; and
- skills and knowledge needed for diversity, inclusion, and social justice for people of all ages

History and Philosophy

The Master of Arts in Gerontology program at SF State was established in 1986 and is the first, and thus the oldest, graduate program in Gerontology in the California State University and University of California systems. The program is dedicated to the higher education of professionals using an interdisciplinary approach to serve the present and future needs of society in meeting the multiple challenges of an aging population; the conduct of applied research to increase the body of knowledge about issues and processes of aging; and the application of the discipline of gerontology in the community to advocate for improving the quality of care and quality of life for older adults.

Applied, Skill-Based Professional Education

The Gerontology program emphasizes an applied, skill-based approach to professional education needed in aging-related fields. To do this, it draws upon the strengths of the University and community as well as the expertise of the faculty. The program curriculum is designed for students to obtain knowledge of the discipline of gerontology and its theoretical foundations for applied research, needs assessment, program development, evaluation, implementation, and administration.

The program resides in a richly diverse, multicultural environment which provides a natural laboratory for understanding and developing competencies around the aging experiences of diverse groups of older adults. We strive for the education and training to create equitable and inclusive programs and services for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Career Outlook

Globally, there is a substantial growth of older population. By 2030, one-quarter of residents (25%) in California will be 60 years and older. The increasingly diverse aging population demands not only the expansion of current services and programs for older adults but rethinking and redesigning them. Furthermore, the field of aging is in urgent need of creative and innovative solutions to many of the challenges for people who desire to thrive in more age-friendly cities and communities. A Master of Arts (M.A.) in Gerontology prepares the student for effective performance in a career of service to older adults. It also lays a firm academic foundation in applied gerontology for students who choose to work toward a doctoral or professional degree. Students have the opportunity to choose a number of career paths in the field of aging within the public and private sectors.

Aging programs and services are provided by a wide range of public and private agencies including local, state and federal government, non-profit social service agencies, and private companies and corporations. These organizations seek professionals with skills and knowledge of gerontology who can develop, provide, and evaluate services that will promote health and wellness of older adults and their families with diverse backgrounds.

Professor

Darlene Yee-Melichar (1990), *Professor in Gerontology*. Ed.D. Teachers College, Columbia University.

Assistant Professor

Emiko Takagi (2017), *Assistant Professor in Gerontology*. Ph.D. University of Southern California.

Masters

- Master of Arts in Gerontology (<http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/health-social-sciences/gerontology/ma-gerontology/>)

GRN 500 Aging and Society (Units: 3)

Prerequisites: GE Areas A1*, A2*, A3*, and B4* all with grades of C- or better or permission of the instructor.

Concepts and issues in gerontology. Processes, problems, and challenges of aging as related to other disciplines, integrating and emphasizing research findings.

Course Attributes:

- E1 LLD Pre-Fall 2019
- UD-D: Social Sciences

GRN 510 Death and Dying in Contemporary Society (Units: 3)

Prerequisites: GE Areas A1*, A2*, A3*, and B4* all with grades of C- or better or permission of the instructor.

Attitudes, beliefs, practices, grief responses, and bioethical issues of dying and death which confront the individual and society. Ways to cope and help oneself and others to enhance life and maturity.

Course Attributes:

- E1 LLD Pre-Fall 2019
- UD-D: Social Sciences

GRN 699 Independent Study (Units: 3)

Prerequisite: Upper-division standing or permission of the instructor.

Pursuit of a topic of special gerontological interest under the supervision of a faculty advisor or instructor.

GRN 705 Aging in a Multidimensional Context (Units: 3)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

Examination of theories and research on aging including interpersonal and structural dimensions of aging and the scope, concepts, and approaches in the field.

GRN 710 Aging Processes: Health and Human Services (Units: 3)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

Examination of the biomedical and physiological processes and theories of aging. Implications on health and human services for the elderly of diverse backgrounds, cultures, and ethnicities.

GRN 715 Age and Social Policy Analysis (Units: 3)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

Exploration of the variety of public and private agencies and businesses including entitlement programs designed to serve an aging population. Examine a variety of models and frameworks for policy analysis with attention to global aging issues.

GRN 725 Aging and Diversity (Units: 3)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

Multicultural aging issues including psychological aspects of aging for ethnic and racial groups within the U.S. Emphasis on cultural competence, cohort variations, health differentials, life expectancy/longevity, theoretical perspectives, and methodological implications.

GRN 735 Ethical and Legal Issues in Aging and Social Services (Units: 3)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

Ethical dilemmas and legal issues as they pertain to the professional practice of gerontology and the delivery of social services to the elderly.

GRN 760 Research Methods in Gerontology (Units: 3)

Prerequisites: Introductory statistics; permission of the instructor.

Quantitative and qualitative research designs and methods, data gathering techniques, measurement, and data analysis and interpretation. Applications of research methods to studies in aging, including descriptive and comparative research, program evaluations, and needs assessments.

GRN 765 Aging and Continuum of Care (Units: 3)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

Overview of the continuum of care with an emphasis on human diversity, quality of care, and quality of life. Concepts, functions, issues, and skills associated with home and community-based services, adult day care, assisted living, nursing facilities, and hospice care.

GRN 838 Gerontology Seminar (Units: 3)

Prerequisite: Gerontology students or permission of the instructor.

Group process in support of gerontology internship, learning contract, qualitative methods, fieldwork experience and techniques, ethics, and problem-solving. May be repeated for a total of 6 units. (Plus-minus letter grade; CR/NC allowed, RP)

GRN 839 Gerontology Internship (Units: 3)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

Field internship in cooperation with a private or public profit or non-profit organization enabling students to acquire competencies and experiences required for professional responsibilities. May be repeated for a total of 6 units.

GRN 890 Integrative Seminar (Units: 3)

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor; approval of Advancement to Candidacy (ATC) and Culminating Experience (CE) forms by Graduate Studies.

Capstone to demonstrate knowledge and skills in problem-solving, decision-making, critical thinking, and cooperative and collaborative communications.

GRN 897 Gerontology Research (Units: 3)

Prerequisites: Graduate standing; permission of a graduate adviser.

Independent/original research under faculty supervision. Continuous enrollment required for all students yet to complete the master's thesis or research project. May be repeated for a total of 9 units; only 3 units may count for degree credit. (Plus-minus letter grade, CR/NC, RP)

GRN 899 Independent Study (Units: 3)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

Pursuit of a topic under the supervision of a faculty adviser/instructor. May be repeated for a total of 6 units.