

GERONTOLOGY MINOR & GERONTOLOGY CERTIFICATE

Description

Minor or Certificate in Gerontology

Undergraduates may earn a certificate or minor in gerontology. The certificate consists of 15 hours of specified coursework plus a one-semester practicum. This option is ideal for students wanting to pursue a career in health care or a related field. The minor is comprised of 18 hours of coursework. Although an undergraduate major in gerontology is not offered on the University of Nebraska - Lincoln campus, the certificate program may be used as a minor or concentration within several degree programs earned through other university departments. Students wanting to major in gerontology should contact the UNO campus at 402-554-2272.

Courses that meet the gerontology requirement are taught by gerontology department faculty as well as related faculty in other University of Nebraska - Lincoln and University of Nebraska Omaha departments. Students should consult the Department of Gerontology for the appropriate selection of courses.

Admission

Application materials for admission to the Gerontology Certificate Program can be obtained from the Department office, 310 Nebraska Hall (402-472-0754); CPACS Building 211 on the Omaha campus (402-554-2272); or at <http://www.unomaha.edu/gero>.

Administration of the Program

The UNO Department of Gerontology administers the certificate in gerontology program for all campuses of the University of Nebraska under an agreement approved by the Board of Regents in 1977. Students at UNL, UNO, UNK, and UNMC are thus able to earn the certificate as part of their academic work at the University of Nebraska.

Students who wish to earn the certificate must go through a formal admissions procedure; admissions materials are available at the offices named above.

Undergraduates who begin work toward the certificate late in their academic program may find it difficult to schedule the necessary coursework and practicum hours prior to graduation (this is especially true for BSN candidates in the College of Nursing). It is acceptable, and in many cases desirable, to complete the classroom portion of work toward the certificate while an undergraduate, receive the bachelors degree from one's major department, and then complete work on the practicum during the semester after graduation as an unclassified postgraduate. Gerontology advisors maintain a degree of flexibility in order to work with students who have special needs.

College Requirements

College Admission

Students who have been admitted to the University may apply for entrance to the College of Public Affairs and Community Service during initial registration by indicating their preference in the appropriate place on the University Application for Admission form.

Students who wish to readmit or transfer into the College from another institution or another program within the University should refer to the individual school/department requirements to declare their intended major.

Admission Deficiencies/Removal of Deficiencies

Students with high school admission deficiencies that have been admitted to UNL may enter the College of Public Affairs and Community Service but must remove any deficiencies according to University policy. A course used to remove a high school deficiency may also apply toward a degree in the College.

College Degree Requirements

Achievement-Centered Education (ACE)

All students completing their degree on the Lincoln campus must fulfill the Achievement-Centered Education (ACE) requirements. The 30-hour ACE requirement will include a minimum of 3 hours of approved coursework in each of the 10 designated Achievement-Centered Education (ACE) student learning outcome areas which can be viewed at ace.unl.edu (<http://ace.unl.edu>). Students will be provided a list of courses they can select from to meet each of the 10 ACE Student Learning Outcomes.

Foreign Languages/Language Requirement

Students in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service who have completed the University of Nebraska high school admission requirement of two years in the same language will not be required to complete additional language for their degree.

Minimum Hours Required for Graduation

Each candidate must present a total of at least 120 semester hours of college credit to meet graduation requirements.

Grade Rules

C- and D Grades

A minimum grade of at least C- must be earned in all required courses within the major, unless a higher grade is designated by the department/school. Completion of a course within the major with a grade below a C- will not be considered as having fulfilled prerequisite requirements for additional courses taken in the major field of study. A higher grade may be designated by the department/school.

Pass/No Pass Limits

See individual school/department limitations regarding Pass/No Pass.

GPA Requirements

Each candidate for the degree must attain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0. A minimum grade of at least C- must be earned in all required courses within the major, unless a higher grade is designated by the department/school. All grades reported by the faculty to the registrar become a part of the student's permanent record and are included in the computation of the grade point average, even though some of these grades may be for work done in excess of the 120 hours required for graduation.

Transfer Credit Rules

The transfer of D grades in non-major courses are accepted only from within the University of Nebraska system. Students from other institutions must present a grade of C- or above for all coursework.

Generally, hours earned at an accredited college are accepted by the University, however, the college will evaluate all hours submitted for transfer to determine applicability toward the degree. A maximum of 64 hours may be transferred from a two-year college and a maximum of 90 hours from a four-year institution.

Course Level Requirements (Hour Requirement 300+)

Individual departments/schools should be consulted for the minimum number of upper-division hours required.

Residency

Thirty (30) of the last 36 hours required for the degree must be registered for and carried within the University of Nebraska system.

Independent Study and Internship Rules

Individual schools/departments should be consulted for rules regarding independent study and internship credit applicable to majors or minors.

Catalog Rule

A student registering in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service for the first time may, except for limitations described below, complete work for the degree according to the requirements of

- the catalog in effect the year the student enters CPACS, or
- the catalog current at the time the student applies for the degree.

Students entering the College for the first time in the summer will be subject to the catalog for the academic year immediately following.

Students formerly in a CPACS program who drop out of the College for one year must complete requirements of the catalog current at the time of readmission.

Failure to complete the requirements for the degree within seven years after the date the student first enters the College will subject the student to graduation under the requirements of a later catalog to be approved by the Dean.

The College reserves the right to institute and make effective, after due notice, during the course of a student's work toward a degree, any new ruling which may be necessary for the general good of the College and to substitute courses currently offered for those no longer offered.

Requirements for Minor Offered by Department

Minor in Gerontology

A minor in gerontology consists of 18 credit hours. Nine (9) hours of core courses are required with the remaining 9 hours to be selected by the student with advice and support of the academic advisor for the department.

Core Courses Required for the Minor

GERO 200	Introduction to Gerontology	3
GERO 446 / PSYC 446	Psychology of Adult Development and Aging	3
GERO 467	Programs and Services for the Elderly	3
Total Credit Hours		9

While not required, GERO 455 Health Aspects of Aging will be strongly encouraged for those seeking a career in health care.

Students may also select a course offered in another department that has at least 75% of its focus on the aging experience. This course can be counted toward a minor in gerontology. A practicum will not be required of students pursuing a minor.

Grade Rules

C- and D Grades

The student must earn an overall average of C (2.0) in courses for the minor.

Pass/No Pass

No course may be taken Pass/No Pass.

Requirements for Certificate Offered by Department

Certificate in Gerontology

Course Work

All undergraduates who wish to earn the certificate in gerontology must complete a minimum of 15 semester hours of gerontology courses, with a core of strongly recommended courses, including GERO 200 Introduction to Gerontology, GERO 446 Psychology of Adult Development and Aging, and GERO 467 Programs and Services for the Elderly. The remaining course work will be agreed upon between the student and his or her gerontology advisor in an individually-designed program of study.

Practicum

A one-semester field placement is also required. Students in most cases will earn 3 hours of academic credit for this practicum by registering for GERO 494 Practicum. It may be possible to coordinate this experience with field placement requirements in other departments (e.g., social work or child, youth and family studies), but in all cases such arrangements must have the prior approval of the gerontology departmental practicum coordinator.

GERO 200 Introduction to Gerontology

Description: Introduction to social gerontology and human development in later life; emphasis on important elements of aging, such as socialization, family interaction, retirement, physical and psychological aging, and perceptions of older persons in contemporary society.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

Prerequisite for: GERO 446, GERO 846, PSYC 446

ACE: ACE 6 Social Science

GERO 307 Death and Dying

Description: Interdisciplinary survey of literature in the field of thanatology with an emphasis on working with the older patient and his or her family.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

GERO 410 Educational Gerontology**Crosslisted with:** GERO 810**Description:** Introduction to the field of education for and about the aging. Institutions and processes of education will be analyzed to determine their relationships and value to persons who are now old and those who are aging.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 435 Issues in Aging****Crosslisted with:** GERO 835**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing**Description:** For students in gerontology and in other fields who are interested in a humanistic approach to understanding significant issues which affect the lives of older people.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 442 Recreation Therapy: Intervention for the Aging****Crosslisted with:** GERO 842**Description:** Role of leisure services as related to understanding and working with elders. Emphasis on recreation programming as a mode of intervention. Analysis and study of the phases of aging, with reference to psychomotor, affective, and cognitive changes; introduction to the theories of aging and how they relate to the lifestyle of this population; recreational therapy intervention, activity adaptation and program design; leisure education and issues and trends.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 446 Psychology of Adult Development and Aging****Crosslisted with:** GERO 846, PSYC 446**Prerequisites:** PSYC 181 or GERO 200.**Description:** Major social and psychological changes that occur as a function of aging. Both normal and abnormal patterns of developmental change including their implications for behavior.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 447 Mental Health and Aging****Crosslisted with:** GERO 847**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing.**Description:** Mental health needs of older adults. Identifying both positive mental health and pathological conditions. Treatment interventions effective with older adults and their families.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 450 Legal Aspects of Aging****Crosslisted with:** GERO 850**Description:** Consideration of the legal concerns which are likely to arise as people age. Includes introduction to the American legal system and emphasis on underlying legal concepts and issues of special importance to older persons.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 451 Long-term Care Administration****Crosslisted with:** GERO 851**Description:** Investigation of the broad range of policy issues, theoretical concerns, and practical management strategies influencing the design, organization, and delivery of long-term care services.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 452 Senior Housing****Crosslisted with:** GERO 852**Prerequisites:** Junior/Senior Standing**Description:** Provides an in-depth understanding of the various housing options available to older adults including aging in place to hospice. Gain a working knowledge of the needs of older adults and how this is used in making decisions about housing.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 455 Health Aspects of Aging****Crosslisted with:** GERO 855**Description:** Psychological, sociological, and physiological factors that influence the health of the aging, with particular emphasis given to biological changes that have implications for disease and health disorders.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 459 Disorders of Communication in Older Adults****Crosslisted with:** GERO 859**Description:** Familiarizes the student with the identification and symptomology, basic assessment and intervention strategies associated with disorders of communication affecting older adults and geriatric patients. Beneficial to students majoring in gerontology, or speech pathology, as an elective course, or as a professional enrichment course for persons working in these or related fields.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC

GERO 467 Programs and Services for the Elderly

Crosslisted with: GERO 867

Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing.

Description: Historical overview of programs for the elderly, to examine the national policy process as it relates to the older American, and to review the principles and practices relative to the existing national programs for the aged.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

GERO 469 Working with Minority Elderly

Crosslisted with: GERO 869, SOCW 404

Prerequisites: Junior or senior in gerontology or social work.

Description: Interdisciplinary course designed to provide the student with knowledge of the differing status, attitudes, and experiences of the elderly within four major minority groups and to examine various service systems and practice models in terms of their relevance and effectiveness in meeting needs of minority elderly.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

GERO 472 Baby Boomers and 21st century

Crosslisted with: GERO 872

Description: Marketing decisions and strategies apply to all businesses and are influenced by the target market. The economic realities and the character of America will change due to shifting demographics of baby boomers. Businesses that understand the power of the baby boomers will succeed; failure to understand that power may lead to economic consequences. Students from many disciplines will benefit from this cross-referenced course blending the realities of gerontology with the predictions of baby boomer behavior and the resulting impact to all businesses.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: IND

GERO 475 Mid-life Career Change and Pre-Retirement

Crosslisted with: GERO 875

Description: Examination of mid-life as it applies to the concept of second careers, existing resources, and the future of second careers; and the concept and practical implications of preretirement planning.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

GERO 485 Hospice and Other Services for the Dying Patient/Family

Crosslisted with: GERO 885, SOCW 485

Description: Designed to involve students in the recognition of fears, concerns, and needs of dying patients and their families by examining the hospice concept and other services available in our community. Factual information, readings, professional presentations, films, and experiential exercises are offered to aid the student in understanding that hospice is an alternative to the traditional medical model so that when the "cure" system is no longer functional, then the "care" system, hospice, can be offered.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

GERO 492 Special Studies in Gerontology

Crosslisted with: GERO 892

Prerequisites: 6 hrs gerontology.

Description: Special studies designed around the interests and needs of the individual student in such areas as the psychology, sociology, economics, or politics of aging, as well as operation of various service systems. May be either a literature review project or a field project in which experience is gained in the community identifying and analyzing needs and services related to older people.

Credit Hours: 1-3

Min credits per semester: 1

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: IND

GERO 494 Practicum

Crosslisted with: GERO 894

Prerequisites: 9 hrs gerontology and permission.

Description: Opportunity for students to share field experiences; to obtain guidance concerning various relationships with agency, staff, and clients; and to develop a broadly based perspective of the field of aging.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 6

Format: FLD

GERO 497 Senior Honors Project/Thesis

Prerequisites: Senior Honors Program.

Description: Independent research project supervised by department/school faculty.

Credit Hours: 3-6

Min credits per semester: 3

Max credits per semester: 6

Max credits per degree: 6

Format: IND

GERO 498 Counseling Skills in Gerontology

Crosslisted with: GERO 898

Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing.

Description: Develops basic counseling skills for application in gerontology.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

GERO 810 Educational Gerontology**Crosslisted with:** GERO 410**Description:** Introduction to the field of education for and about the aging. Institutions and processes of education will be analyzed to determine their relationships and value to persons who are now old and those who are aging.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 835 Issues in Aging****Crosslisted with:** GERO 435**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing.**Description:** For students in gerontology and in other fields who are interested in a humanistic approach to understanding significant issues which affect the lives of older people.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 842 Recreation Therapy: Intervention for the Aging****Crosslisted with:** GERO 442**Description:** Role of leisure services as related to understanding and working with elders. Emphasis on recreation programming as a mode of intervention. Analysis and study of the phases of aging, with reference to psychomotor, affective, and cognitive changes; introduction to the theories of aging and how they relate to the lifestyle of this population; recreational therapy intervention, activity adaptation and program design; leisure education and issues and trends.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 846 Psychology of Adult Development and Aging****Crosslisted with:** GERO 446, PSYC 446**Prerequisites:** PSYC 181 or GERO 200.**Description:** Major social and psychological changes that occur as a function of aging. Both normal and abnormal patterns of developmental change including their implications for behavior.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 847 Mental Health and Aging****Crosslisted with:** GERO 447**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing.**Description:** Mental health needs of older adults. Identifying both positive mental health and pathological conditions. Treatment interventions effective with older adults and their families.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 850 Legal Aspects of Aging****Crosslisted with:** GERO 450**Description:** Consideration of the legal concerns which are likely to arise as people age. Includes introduction to the American legal system and emphasis on underlying legal concepts and issues of special importance to older persons.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 851 Long-term Care Administration****Crosslisted with:** GERO 451**Description:** Investigation of the broad range of policy issues, theoretical concerns, and practical management strategies influencing the design, organization, and delivery of long-term care services.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 852 Senior Housing****Crosslisted with:** GERO 452**Prerequisites:** Junior/Senior Standing**Description:** Provides an in-depth understanding of the various housing options available to older adults including aging in place to hospice. Gain a working knowledge of the needs of older adults and how this is used in making decisions about housing.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 855 Health Aspects of Aging****Crosslisted with:** GERO 455**Description:** Psychological, sociological, and physiological factors that influence the health of the aging, with particular emphasis given to biological changes that have implications for disease and health disorders.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 859 Disorders of Communication in Older Adults****Crosslisted with:** GERO 459**Description:** Familiarizes the student with the identification and symptomology, basic assessment and intervention strategies associated with disorders of communication affecting older adults and geriatric patients. Beneficial to students majoring in gerontology, or speech pathology, as an elective course, or as a professional enrichment course for persons working in these or related fields.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC

GERO 867 Programs and Services for the Elderly**Crosslisted with:** GERO 467**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing.**Description:** Historical overview of programs for the elderly, to examine the national policy process as it relates to the older American, and to review the principles and practices relative to the existing national programs for the aged.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 869 Working with Minority Elderly****Crosslisted with:** GERO 469, SOCW 404**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior in gerontology or social work.**Description:** Interdisciplinary course designed to provide the student with knowledge of the differing status, attitudes, and experiences of the elderly within four major minority groups and to examine various service systems and practice models in terms of their relevance and effectiveness in meeting needs of minority elderly.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 872 Baby Boomers and 21st century****Crosslisted with:** GERO 472**Description:** Marketing decisions and strategies apply to all businesses and are influenced by the target market. The economic realities and the character of America will change due to shifting demographics of baby boomers. Businesses that understand the power of the baby boomers will succeed; failure to understand that power may lead to economic consequences. Students from many disciplines will benefit from this cross-referenced course blending the realities of gerontology with the predictions of baby boomer behavior and the resulting impact to all businesses.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** IND**GERO 875 Mid-life Career Change and Pre-Retirement****Crosslisted with:** GERO 475**Description:** Examination of mid-life as it applies to the concept of second careers, existing resources, and the future of second careers; and the concept and practical implications of preretirement planning.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 885 Hospice and Other Services for the Dying Patient/Family****Crosslisted with:** GERO 485, SOCW 485**Description:** Designed to involve students in the recognition of fears, concerns, and needs of dying patients and their families by examining the hospice concept and other services available in our community. Factual information, readings, professional presentations, films, and experiential exercises are offered to aid the student in understanding that hospice is an alternative to the traditional medical model so that when the "cure" system is no longer functional, then the "care" system, hospice, can be offered.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 892 Special Studies in Gerontology****Crosslisted with:** GERO 492**Description:** Special studies designed around the interests and needs of the individual student in such areas as the psychology, sociology, economics, or politics of aging, as well as operation of various service systems. May be either a literature review project or a field project in which experience is gained in the community identifying and analyzing needs and services related to older people.**Credit Hours:** 1-3**Min credits per semester:** 1**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** IND**GERO 894 Practicum****Crosslisted with:** GERO 494**Prerequisites:** 9 hrs gerontology and permission.**Description:** Opportunity for students to share field experiences; to obtain guidance concerning various relationships with agency, staff, and clients; and to develop a broadly based perspective of the field of aging.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 6**Format:** FLD**GERO 898 Counseling Skills in Gerontology****Crosslisted with:** GERO 498**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing.**Description:** Develops basic counseling skills for application in gerontology.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**GERO 899 Masters Thesis****Prerequisites:** Permission**Description:** The thesis is written under the supervision of the thesis adviser and the thesis committee. Independent research project required of all students working toward the master of arts degree.**Credit Hours:** 1-6**Min credits per semester:** 1**Max credits per semester:** 6**Max credits per degree:** 99**Format:** IND

GERO 902 Graduate Seminar in Statistical Applications

Description: Provides an introduction to statistical methods and data management used in the social, behavioral and health sciences.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

GERO 911 Applied Social Gerontology

Description: Restricted to graduate students only; required of gerontology students. Social gerontology with an emphasis on the interplay between social, psychological and physical elements in later life.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

GERO 946 Aging and Human Behavior

Description: Intended primarily for graduate students in psychology and gerontology. Age-related changes in psychological processes and the implications of these changes for behavior.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

GERO 956 Seminar: The Older Woman

Description: This course is designed to provide students with a critical understanding of older women. Primary focus will be directed towards an exploration of lifestyles, needs and interests of women in the later half of life. Reading and discussion of current literature will provide a basis for continued exploration through the preparation, administration and analysis of a group research project.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC