

GERONTOLOGY

College of Health and Human Services

Director

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Faculty Interest Group

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Bonnie Rader
Molly Ranney
Wendy Reiboldt
Susan Rice
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David Schult
Donna Schwab
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View the CSU, Long Beach *Catalog* on-line at www.csulb.edu by clicking on "Academics" and then "CSULB Catalog."

Gerontology is the scientific study of the processes and phenomena of aging, including biological, psychological and sociological dimensions. CSULB's Gerontology Program seeks to prepare people of all ages for personal and family aging and for work with older persons

and with those individuals, agencies, organizations, and businesses that work with middle aged and older persons. The Gerontology Program's objectives are:

- To provide a flexible interdisciplinary curriculum that provides new and seasoned professionals with the competencies necessary for success in the field of aging.
- To provide experiential as well as didactic graduate education and professional training in gerontology for individuals planning to become professionals in public and private agencies.
- To provide professional field experiences in gerontology in order to enhance understanding of concepts, themes, and skills related to aging at various life stages, within different gender and racial/ethnic groups and among people with various abilities.
- To provide knowledge and skills necessary to plan, develop, and implement innovative programs to meet the needs of the State's vast and growing aging population.
- To explore aging-related professional values and ethics.

The Gerontology Faculty Interest Group is comprised of about 60 CSULB faculty members representing more than 20 disciplines. Members teach courses essential to the Gerontology Program, conduct gerontological research, and provide training and service. Lecturers and emeritus faculty members also are active in the Gerontology Program. Full time Interest Group members are listed.

CSULB is one of only a few California campuses to offer graduate programs to meet the State's need for educated, experienced and diverse professional gerontologists. To accomplish this goal, two programs of study are offered: A Master of Science in Gerontology and a Gerontology Certificate.

Master of Science in Gerontology (code FCS_MS02)

Interested students should contact Dr. Barbara White at 562-985-1582 or bwhite@csulb.edu

The Master of Science Degree in Gerontology is designed to prepare students with a thorough background in existing theory and research in gerontology, advanced principles of program management, and an enhancement to their baccalaureate preparation for their professional discipline. Students who complete the M.S. in Gerontology will accomplish the following objectives:

1. Acquire advanced education and professional training in gerontology in order to become administrators of state and federal programs, services such as senior centers and retirement homes, businesses, and intergenerational programs.
2. Enhance cultural competence regarding age, gender, race and ethnicity, and/or diverse abilities.
3. Acquire expertise in planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating innovative programs to meet the needs of older persons.
4. Demonstrate the ability to conduct appropriate research.
5. Exercise sound professional judgment based on high ethical standards and expectations.

Admission

To obtain admission to the Master of Science degree in Gerontology the student must:

1. Complete the application form to be admitted to the university with graduate standing;
2. Send the following materials to the Gerontology Program, in addition to those sent to the Office of Enrollment Services:
 - a. Transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work,
 - b. Three letters of recommendation reflecting academic potential, personal qualifications, sensitivity, motivation, and evidence of ability and motivation to work with older adults and professionals in the field of aging, and
 - c. A current resume,
 - d. A personal statement of interest in aging and career goals in the field.

Admission to the program is contingent on approval by the Gerontology Program Director.

Prerequisites

1. A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
2. Evidence of a 3.0 or better grade point average in all undergraduate work. Students with less than a 3.0 grade point average in the last 60 undergraduate semester or 90 quarter units attempted but with evidence of professional promise and experiential background may be admitted conditionally by action of the Program Director.
3. Successful completion of the following courses or their approved substitutes: a. GERN 400I; b. BIOL 401; c. PSY 365 OR HDEV 357I; d. ANTH 454; e. An approved upper division statistics course.

Retention

1. Maintain a 3.0 or better grade point average in all graduate work completed at CSULB and all graduate work transferred to meet graduate requirements.
2. Continued satisfactory progress toward the degree objective.

Advancement to Candidacy

1. Satisfy the general University requirements for advancement to candidacy.
2. Pass the Writing Proficiency Examination (to be taken during the first term).
3. Complete a minimum of six units of graduate coursework.
4. Enroll during the semester or summer session in which advancement to candidacy takes place.
5. Obtain approval for ones individual program plan from the Gerontology Program Director and then from the Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

Requirements

Thesis Option: Completion of a minimum of 37 units, with at least 28 units of 500 and/or 600 series courses in Gerontology, including GERN 563, 592, 600, 610, 696, 697 and 698. A maximum of six units may be taken outside the major.

Comprehensive Examination Option: Completion of a minimum of 37 units with at least 24 units of 500 and/or 600 series courses in Gerontology, including GERN 563, 592, 600, 610, 696, 697, and a written comprehensive examination. A maximum of 10 units may be taken outside the major.

Certificate in Gerontology (code FCS_CT03)

Interested students should contact Dr. Barbara White at 562-985-1582 or bwhite@csulb.edu

The Certificate program is designed to train individuals as gerontology specialists within a major area of study. Alumni work in community programs, health services organizations, government agencies, and the private sector.

The Certificate in Gerontology may be earned in conjunction with a baccalaureate degree or awarded subsequent to earning a bachelor's degree. Up to six units of courses taken in the student's major department may be approved to satisfy credential requirements as may general education and elective courses also used to complete the bachelor's degree.

Requirements

1. A bachelor's degree (may be taken concurrently).
2. 24 units distributed as follows: GERN 400I, ANTH 454, BIOL 401, PSY 365 or HDEV 357I.
3. A minimum of six units chosen in consultation with the Gerontology Program Director from a list of supporting courses.
4. Three units of independent study (GERN 497) on a topic related to gerontology.
5. Three units of approved field experience (GERN 492) in a gerontology setting.
6. Early consultation with, and approval by the Gerontology Director for, the individual program of study.
7. Apply for issuance of the earned Certificate at Enrollment Services the term before completion of the baccalaureate and/or Certificate.

Successful completion of the program will result in the Program Director's recommendation for issuance of the Certificate in Gerontology.

Courses (GERN)

400I. Perspectives on Gerontology (3)

Prerequisites: Completion of the General Education Foundation, one or more Explorations courses, and upper-division standing. Multidisciplinary approach to the study of middle age and aging including physiological, psychological, and sociological aspects. Exploration of the effects of culture and of environment on the aging of individuals and groups. Examples of topics include history; demographics; normal and disease-based sensory, cognitive, and health changes; housing and long-term care issues; work, retirement, and income; frauds and scams targeting older adults; and public policy issues. (Lecturer-discussion, 3 hours.)

420./520. Personal Finance for the Aging (3)

Prerequisites: 400-level course in Consumer Affairs or consent of instructor. Provides an understanding of operations of personal finance as applied to the aging population. Topics include public and private sources of income, living expenses, public and private sources of assistance, personal budget systems, financial planning, legal rights of the aged affecting their personal finances, and financial counseling for the aging. Same course as FCS 420./520. (Lecture-discussion 3 hrs)

*424. Independent Living for Disabled and Elderly Persons (3)

Prerequisite: FCS 321 or 322 or GERN 400I or consent of instructor. Independent living concepts related to physically and/or functionally disabled adults. Personal, environmental and programmatic responses to disability and aging. Activities include individual and group projects and site visits to such locations as an adapted private home, an Independent Living Center, a "special clothing" manufacturer, and a multipurpose rehabilitation center. Same course as FCS *424. (Lecture/Activity, 3 hours.)

***439. Nutrition and Aging (3)**

Prerequisites: FCS 232 or BIOL 207 or consent of instructor. Nutritional needs as related to physiological changes that occur during aging. Factors that influence food intake and nutritional status of the elderly. Diet adaptation for chronic diseases commonly found in older people. Same course as FCS *439. (Lecture-discussion, 3 hours.)

469./569. Disability, Culture and Society: Issues and Social Intervention (3)

Prerequisites: Senior or graduate status. This is a course using interdisciplinary work about disability as a social construct. Utilizing an oppressed group model, the course will examine society's policies and practices to understand the experience of disability. Includes historical and contemporary perspectives as well as future issues. Social and clinical intervention methods, and program and information resources are covered. Same course as REC 469/569 and S W 469/569. Letter grade only (A-F).

***474. Aging and Diversity in California (3)**

Prerequisites: GERN 400I, or consent of instructor. This is an experiential course in which students undertake projects that are meaningful to diverse California elders, that build long-term skills, and that are timely. Professionals in the field of aging discuss their career paths, their local aging networks, and how the diverse physical, social, economic, cultural and political climates of the State and region shape current aging-related events, trends, issues and programs. At least two off-campus field trips are required. (Lecture-activity 3 units.)

***482. Health Assessment of the Aging Client (3)**

Prerequisites: GERN 400I or equivalent and upper division standing or consent of instructor. Assessment of the physical, psychological and social status of the aging client as these factors affect health and well being. Course is designed to assist those working with the aging client in a variety of setting to identify actual or potential health related problems using a variety of tools and techniques. Same course as NRSG*482. (Lecture-discussion, 3 hours.)

***485. Mental Health and Aging (3)**

Prerequisites: GERN 400I, HDEV 357I or PSY 365, ANTH 454, and BIOL 401, or consent of instructor. Variations in the mental health status of older adults over time and within subgroups. Discussion of changing societal responses (e.g., how and why diagnoses and assessments of competence shift over time). Exploration of the most frequent mental health issues of older adults. Comparison of medical and non-medical therapeutic approaches to older adults' mental health issues. Two off-campus site visits required. (Seminar 3 hours.)

492G. Internship in Gerontology (3)

Prerequisites: Student must be a Gerontology Certificate candidate; have senior standing; have a 2.5 overall GPA or a 3.0 major GPA; approval of the Gerontology program director; and GERN 400I, ANTH 454, PSY 365 or HDEV 357I. Each prerequisite course must be completed with a grade of "C" or better. A course in which a grade lower than "C" is received must be retaken and successfully completed prior to enrolling in any course for which it is a prerequisite. A student receiving a grade lower than a "C" may proceed with other courses with approval of the Area Coordinator. Field experience of 120 hours in which the student assumes a pre-professional role in an agency, business or other community setting. Internship supervisors monitor and evaluate student work based on preestablished criteria stated in the internship contract. The preestablished criteria in the contract consist of objectives developed by the student in consultation with the supervisor. The objectives and the placement site must be approved by the student's faculty advisor and the internship coordinator. Students evaluate the internship at the end of the experience. The course may be repeated for a maximum of six units. Same as FCS 492G. (Seminar 3 hours.)

497. Directed Studies (1-3)

Prerequisites: GERN 400I, ANTH 454, PSY 365, or HDEV 357I, upper-division standing and consent of program director. Independent study under the supervision of a faculty member. Exploration and experience supplementing and/or complementing regular courses. May be repeated for a maximum of six units.

***499. Special Studies (1-3)**

Group investigation of topics of current interest in gerontology. Topics to be announced in the *Schedule of Classes*. May be repeated for a max. of six units of credit with change of topic.

Graduate Level

520./420. Personal Finance for the Aging (3)

Prerequisites: 400-level course in Consumer Affairs or consent of instructor. Provides an understanding of the operations of personal finance as applied to the aging population. Topics include public and private sources of income, living expenses, public and private sources of assistance, personal budget systems, financial planning, legal rights of the aged affecting their personal finances, and financial counseling for the aging. Same course as FCS 520./420. (Lecture-discussion 3 hours.)

550. Social Policy and Aging (3)

Prerequisite: GERN 400I, HDEV 357I or PSY 365, and ANTH 454 or consent of instructor. Major legislation and policies affecting older Americans. Analyses of policy information and change, kinds of data, and social forces that affect development and implementation of aging-related policies and legislation.

563. Evaluation in Gerontology (3)

Prerequisites: GERN 696, upper division statistics course. Principles, design, and methods of evaluation for use by professional gerontologists. Selection and development of instrumentation for data collection and interpretation, methods of reporting for purposes of accountability. (Seminar 3 hours.) Letter grade only (A-F). Same course as FCS 563.

569./469. Disability, Culture and Society: Issues and Social Intervention (3)

Prerequisites: Senior or graduate status. This is a course using interdisciplinary work about disability as a social construct. Utilizing an oppressed group model, the course will examine society's policies and practices to understand the experience of disability. Includes historical and contemporary perspectives as well as future issues. Social and clinical intervention methods, and program and information resources are covered. Same course as REC 569/469 and S W 569/469. Letter grade only (A-F).

592. Internship in Family and Consumer Sciences/Gerontology (3)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of instructor. Field experience in which student assumes a self directed responsible role in an agency, business or other community setting. May be repeated to a maximum of six units. Same course as FCS 592. (Seminar 3 hours)

600. Seminar in Administration of Family and Consumer Sciences/Gerontology Programs (3)

Prerequisite: FCS 696 or GERN 696 or consent of instructor. Application of administration, management and leadership theories to family and consumer sciences/gerontology programs. Concepts include structure of organizations, leadership styles, management techniques, methods of analyzing and evaluating business systems, management philosophies and performance evaluation procedures. Activities and assignments focus on organization theory, planning, decision making and control techniques, in relation to leadership and management skills needed for success as a family and consumer sciences/gerontology administrator. Same course as FCS 605. (Seminar 3 hours.)

610. Seminar in Current Issues, Trends and Research in Gerontology (3)

Prerequisite: Completion of all core courses except GERN 696, 697 or 698 any of which may be taken concurrently. Students will undertake literature reviews and/or research to explore emerging issues, trends and research in the field of aging studies and/or update their information on the most current gerontological topics. (Seminar 3 hours.)

696. Research Methods (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division statistics (may be taken concurrently). Methodological approaches to contemporary problems in gerontology; biographical techniques and research; critical evaluation of research (Seminar 3 hours.) Letter grade only (A-F).

697. Directed Research (1-3)

Prerequisite: Advancement to candidacy, GERN 500 level courses in area of study, and GERN 696. Independent investigation of research problems under the direction of a faculty member. Letter grade only (A-F).

698. Thesis (1-4)

Prerequisite: GERN 697, advancement to candidacy. Planning, preparation and completion of a thesis under supervision of a faculty member. Approval of thesis committee. Letter grade only (A-F).