

Department of Gerontology

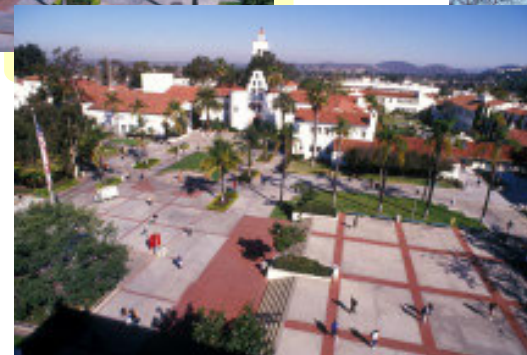
Programs in Aging



Department of Gerontology
&
University Center on Aging

College of Health
and Human Services

San Diego State University



College of Health
and Human Services



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY



Faculty



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Interests

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Public policy, Federal programs and services



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Community, social services planning and evaluation

Donations/Contributions

Your financial contribution to the Department of Gerontology is crucial for student support and program growth. Contributions can be made to the SDSU Foundation. For inquiries on how to make your financial contribution, please call the Office of the Dean, College of Health and Human Services Office: Telephone (619) 594-7102.

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Web Links

SDSU Links

www.sdsu.edu
www.sa.sdsu.edu/fao/index.html
arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/apply
gero.sdsu.edu

SDSU's main site
Financial aide
Admission to SDSU
Department of Gerontology

AGING Links

www.safeaging.org
www.aghe.org/aghe/
www.asaging.org/
www.careersinaging.com
www.eldercare.gov/
www.geron.org/
www.n4a.org/
www.ncoa.org/
www.nhcoa.org/
www.nia.nih.gov/
www.aoa.gov/
www.cdc.gov/ncipc/
ageing.oupjournals.org/
biomed.gerontologyjournals.org/
psychsoc.gerontologyjournals.org/
www.sagepub.com/
gerontologist.gerontologyjournals.org/

National Resource Center for Safe Aging
Association for Gerontology in Higher Education
American Society on Aging
Careers in Aging
Eldercare Locator
Gerontological Society of America
National Association of Area Agencies
National Council on Aging
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Institute on Aging
U.S. Administration on Aging
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Age and Ageing
Journals of Gerontology - Series A
Journals of Gerontology - Series B
Research on Aging
Gerontologist

GOVERNMENT Links

ais-sd.net/
aoa.gov/
nia.nih.gov/
aging.state.ca.us/Internet/ccoa.htm
aging.state.ca.us/Internet/ccoa.htm
dds.ca.gov/
dhs.cahwnet.gov/
dmh.cahwnet.gov/
rehab.cahwnet.gov/
dss.cahwnet.gov/
sen.ca.gov/
assembly.ca.gov/
cfilc.org/

Aging and Independence Services, SD County
U.S. Administration on Aging/Older Americans Act
National Institute on Aging/National Institutes of Health
California Commission on Aging
California Department of Aging
California Department of Developmental Services
California Department of Health Services
California Department of Mental Health
California Department of Rehabilitation
California Department of Social Services
California State Senate
California State Assembly
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers

GERONTOLOGY

Gerontology examines the physical, social, emotional and economic conditions of older people. Because the processes of aging affects all aspects of human activity, gerontology is multidisciplinary in nature. In the 2000 U.S. Census there were 35 million Americans 65 years and older. This is expected to double in 30 years time. This rapid growth will influence all facets of our social, economic, and personal life. Two factors are contributing to the rising proportion of older adults: 1) Americans today are having smaller families, and 2) people are living longer and, for the most part, healthier than they did in the past. Tomorrow's elders will come from the baby boom period (1946-1964) when there was an increase in births. The baby boomers will begin reaching 65 in 2011 and by 2050, one American in five will be an older adult. As a result gerontology is becoming a major area of practice and research in the biological, behavioral, and social sciences. Already there is a growing need for trained professionals to apply new knowledge for planning and developing programs and services to improve the quality of the lives of older people. Education and research in gerontology equips today's students for tomorrow's jobs, in direct services, applied research, and policy and planning. In addition, gerontology students will benefit through a personal understanding of their own aging and that of their families.



Department of Gerontology

The Department of Gerontology is located in the College of Health and Human Services and is the University's focal point for multidisciplinary education, research, and community service in gerontology. For more than 30 years, San Diego State University faculty and students have played key roles in developing gerontological knowledge and improving services to older people. The combined comprehensive efforts of the greater San Diego community, San Diego State University, and the Department of Gerontology have significantly contributed to a better understanding of elderly cohorts in their physical, economic, and psychosocial environment. Improving the lives of older people is the primary mission of the Department of Gerontology.

In recent years, issues in minority aging have received particular attention. The Department of Gerontology has been at the national forefront in developing new knowledge, stimulating professional interest, and influencing national policy in the area of minority aging, in keeping with the country's changing demographics. To achieve this goal the Department is actively involved in:

- Multidisciplinary education and curriculum development
- Short-term training
- A Certificate Program in Applied Gerontology
- Degree programs at both Bachelors and Masters level
- Applied research
- Technical assistance and consultation
- Student involvement in community service
- Older adult campus programs

Four Educational Programs

SDSU applicants have a number of opportunities for selecting aging-related courses from a variety of disciplines such as anthropology, biology, speech, language and hearing sciences, family studies, health science, nursing, exercise and nutrition, psychology, recreation, social work, and sociology. The Department of Gerontology offers a variety of courses in gerontology all of which are based on four primary educational programs. Professionals already working in the field of aging, older people, and others wishing to increase their knowledge and understanding in gerontology are encouraged to apply for admission to the **Certificate Program** in Applied Gerontology. Applicants who have a focused interest in gerontology are encouraged to pursue admission to the **Minor** or **Major** in Gerontology. Those students who have an established interest in gerontology can apply for admission to the **Masters** degree program.

Campus-Based Gerontology Organizations

SDSU Gerontology Students' Association (GSA)

The purpose of the GSA is to stimulate professional interest in the field of Gerontology by providing students with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge, skills, and career direction. Some GSA activities include providing:

- Academic assistance to peers
- A Monthly newsletter
- Networking and career direction by leading monthly meetings and an annual Information Fair and Alumni Banquet
- Volunteer and internship opportunities
- A primary point of contact for students, community constituents, and alumni

For more information call the Department (619) 594-6765.

SDSU Gerontology Alumni Association

The Department has established a Gerontology Alumni Association for the purpose of enhancing the Department's outreach into the San Diego community and developing alumni support for the Gerontology Program. Some of the Alumni activities include:

- Maintaining a Speakers' Bureau
- Recruiting students for the Gerontology Program
- Identifying speakers and internship sites
- Fund-raising
- Sponsoring students to attend major national conferences
- Developing corporate sponsorships
- Advising the Department on curriculum and course content.

The Association meet once a month to formulate a strong mission and a set of goals. To join please call the Department (619) 594-6765.

SDSU Sigma Phi Omega Honor Society

The Sigma Phi Omega is the National Honor Society that recognizes the excellence of those who study gerontology/aging as well as those professionals working in the aging field. The newly formed SDSU Chapter seeks to promote scholarship, professionalism, friendship, and services to older persons, and to recognize exemplary attainment in the field. The Chapter meets regularly to promote these goals. To join please call the Department (619) 594-6765.



The University Center on Aging

The National Center on Safe Aging

The National Center on Safe Aging (NCSA) is sponsored by the Department of Gerontology-University Center on Aging, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Society on Aging. The University Center assists NCSA in identifying key audiences for distributing information to professionals working with older people at risk for injury. Research, evaluation, strategic planning, and technical assistance are core to creating a state-of-the-art resource center that is consumer-friendly and easy to use.

Technical Assistance

Department of Gerontology staff and faculty provide ongoing technical support and consultation services to the ever-expanding educational community and aging network. Graduate and undergraduate students find the University Center a rich resource for bibliographic materials and guidance in aging-related research and curriculum. The Center houses one of the largest collections of reference materials in the field of minority aging containing approximately 1,500 catalogued publications.

Research

One of the Center's major functions is to conduct and facilitate research in the field of gerontology. The information gained is made available to service providers for enhancement of programs serving the elderly. Department, and associated University, faculty have examined such issues as retirement attitudes, expectations, and behavior; volunteerism among older minority and support networks for the aged; health disparities among racially and ethnically diverse elderly; and enhancement of community services for older minority persons.

Continuing Education and Training Activities

The Department of Gerontology serves as a training resource for professionals and practitioners presently in the field. Workshops, seminars, and symposia are offered on an ongoing basis. Courses are offered in the community and on campus upon request.

Road Map to a Bachelors Degree in Gerontology

Minor requires a minimum of 120-124 GE Units to include six upper division units (Courses numbered 300-599)
Major requires a minimum of 120-124 GE Units to include 36 upper division units

SEMESTER 1	UNITS	SEMESTER 2	UNITS	First year
GE Composition	3	GE Intermediate Composition	3	
GE Speech	3	GE Math	3	
GE Social Science/Major Prep - Psy 101	3	2nd Foreign Lang: Ex. Span 102	4	
GE Humanities/Foreign Lang: ex. - Span 101	4	GE Humanities	3	
GE Social Science/Major Prep - Gero 101	3	GERO 101 Introduction to gerontology	3	
University Seminar	1			
Total Units	17	Total Units	16	

SEMESTER 3	UNITS	SEMESTER 4	UNITS	Second year
GERO 250 Intergenerational Issues	3	GERO 350 Social Policy & Aging	3	
GE Life Science /Major Prep - Bio 100	3	GE Physical Science and lab	4	
GE American Institutions	3	American Institutions	3	
GE Humanities	3	GE Humanities	3	
3rd Foreign Lang: example - Span 103	4	GERO 360 Minority and Ethnic Aging	3	
		Writing Proficiency Assessment required*		
Total Units	16	Total Units	16	

SEMESTER 5	UNITS	SEMESTER 6	UNITS	Third year
Elective	3	GE Explorations	3	
Elective	3	GERO 370 Images of Aging	3	
GERO 330 Intro/Research Methods	3	GERO 696 Research Methods	3	
SocWk 420 Aging & Social Services	3	GERO 540 Physical Function	3	
Elective	1	Upper Div. Major Elect.**	3	
Total Units	13	Total Units	15	

SEMESTER 7	UNITS	SEMESTER 8	UNITS	Fourth Year
GE Explorations	3	GE Explorations	3	
GERO 400a Practicum	3	GERO 400b Practicum	3	
GERO 402 The Aging Network	3	GERO 522 International Issues on Aging	3	
GERO 520 Analysis of Programs in Aging	3	Elective	3	
Upper Div. Major Electi**	3			
Total Units	15	Total Units	12	

* Assessed during the semester student completes 60 units
** with Department Approval

70 Units can be transferred from community or junior college courses, 24 units can be transferred from Open University. See SDSU's General Catalog 2003-2004 page 77.

Road Map to a Masters Degree in Gerontology

Masters requires a minimum of 30 upper and graduate division units (Courses numbered 500-799) and six units of electives.

SEMESTER 1	UNITS	SEMESTER 2	UNITS	First year
GERO 601 Theory	3	GERO 696 Research Methods	3	
GERO 603 Healthy Aging/ GERO 540 Physical Health	3	GERO 602 Policy Development/ GERO 696 Advocacy	3	
PH 602 Biostatistics/ or other to be determined	3	GERO 604 Program Development/ GERO 520 Aging Programs	3	
Total Units	9	Total Units	9	

SEMESTER 3	UNITS	SEMESTER 4	UNITS	Second year
GERO 605 Long Term Care	3	GERO 797 Research	3	
GERO 700 Practicum	3	GERO 799A Thesis	3	
Elective	3	Elective	3	
Total Units	9	Total Units	9	
Applicants to the Masters are required to have completed 60 units (undergraduate) with a GPA of 3.0.				



Certificate Program in Applied Gerontology

Purpose : This program is designed for persons working in the field of aging as well as those interested in entering the field. Completion of the Certificate Program will enable participants to assume greater responsibility in this specialty.

Goals : The program will enable students to:

- Obtain a broad knowledge base in the bio-psycho-social aspects of aging
- Acquire practical skills in the application of this information towards services for older people
- Understand the dynamics of government programs, program planning and evaluation techniques
- Develop knowledge and skills in an advocacy capacity

Requirements : To be admitted to the program, students are expected to provide previous coursework and/or show experience as evidence of their potential for completing the academic program. Previous courses in gerontology taken at SDSU or at other universities will be considered for credit towards certification on an individual basis but not to exceed nine units. Students must:

- Complete 18 semester units of coursework with a grade point average of 2.0 or better
- Complete coursework within four years
- Petition the College of Extended Studies for the Certificate upon completion of 18 semester units

The Department is responsible for the coordination of the Certificate Program in conjunction with the College of Extended Studies. Admission applications may be obtained from the College of Extended Studies. Applications may be submitted prior to entering the program or before completion of nine semester units of coursework.

Students are required to submit an Open University Registration Form each semester to the College of Extended Studies. Students accepted into the program will be assigned to an advisor by the Department of Gerontology. For additional information, call the College of Extended Studies (619) 594-5162.

Career Opportunities in Gerontology

According to the Department's most recent alumni survey, 75% of the gerontology graduates secure jobs in the aging network and 80% of those stay in the San Diego area.

The following list provides an overview of the types of opportunities available to those preparing to pursue employment in the field of aging. The list is not exhaustive, but serves to indicate the wide range of areas available for involvement. It also suggests that there are a variety of professional levels at which individuals can work. Applicants are encouraged to contact the SDSU Gerontology Alumni Association and discuss career opportunities.

- Community Organizations
- Non-Profit Agencies
- Government Agencies
- Health Facilities
- Rehabilitation
- Financial/Retirement Planning
- Physical Therapy
- Exercise Training
- Job Placement
- Social Services
- Sales and Marketing
- Home Health Care
- Advocacy
- Research
- Elder Law
- Hospices
- Nutrition Sites
- Private Consultation
- Teaching
- Senior Centers

For more information on career opportunities, try these internet sites:

<http://gero.sdsu.edu>

<http://www.careersinaging.com/careersinaging/>

<http://www.agework.com/agework/>

<http://www.gmu.edu/departments/gerontology/career.htm>



Master of Science in Gerontology...continued

Electives

A minimum of 6 units of electives are required. Selected with the approval of the student's advisor, electives must include courses in gerontology or from within departments related to gerontology. Any gerontology graduate course or 500 - 700 level courses not taken for credit in the core 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.

Application for Admission

General Catalog

<http://coursecat.sdsu.edu/0304/index.html>

For the Undergraduate Gerontology Courses

<http://coursecat.sdsu.edu/0304/GERO.pdf>

Graduate Bulletin

<http://coursecat.sdsu.edu/GB0304/index.html>

For the Graduate course in Gerontology

<http://coursecat.sdsu.edu/GB0304/GERO.pdf>

If you have any questions about courses or the application process please contact the Department either by Email : mgarrett@mail.sdsu.edu or by phone at (619) 594-6765.

Gerontology Minor

Purpose : The Curriculum is designed to combine two basic kinds of expertise: (1) increased knowledge of the physiological, psychological, and sociological processes of aging, and (2) the development of in-service skills to address the social needs which accompany the aging of populations.

Goals : Students electing to participate in this minor may do so to accomplish different goals. The minor in gerontology may be selected for: (1) education and training for a service career in the field of aging; (2) preparation for a specialized graduate program; or, (3) personal enrichment and development in understanding the aging process. The minor is designed to facilitate achievement of all of these goals. After the completion of a bachelor of arts degree, students seeking employment will find the gerontology minor an asset in such fields as health care, counseling, recreation, nutritional service, education, business, welfare services, and private and public administration.

Requirements : The minor in gerontology consists of a minimum of 18 units to include Psychology 350; Sociology 350 or 527; and 12 units selected from Gerontology 101, 350, 360, 370, 400A, 400B, 402, 499, 522, 596; Child and Family Development 496*; Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, 580; Exercise and Nutritional Sciences 433; Recreation 580; Social Work 120, 420; Sociology 496* and Women's Studies 521.

Additional prerequisites may be required for courses in the minor. Courses in the minor may be not be counted toward the major or the certificate, unless there is a declaration or change of major and minor. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University (see the roadmap on page 4).

* When relevant



Gerontology Major

Purpose : The major is designed for students who want to pursue entering program management or implementation of programs in aging networks. Students will gain a better understanding of the roles of older people and their contributions to society.

Goals : The major is with the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences, and prepares students for:

- Work in the aging field
- Specialized graduate programs, or for
- Enhanced knowledge and appreciation of the aging process

Requirements : All candidates must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of the SDSU General Catalog on “Graduation Requirements.” No more than 48 units in gerontology courses can apply to the degree. A minor is not required with the major. The following courses are required for the major: Gerontology 101, and 370; Biology 100; Child and Family Development 135; Community Health Education 101; Psychology 101; and Social Work 110. In addition, competency (equivalent to that which is normally attained through three consecutive courses of college study) is required in one foreign language as part of the preparation for the major. There is an Upper Division Writing Requirement, where students must pass the University Writing Examination or completing one of the approved writing courses with a grade of C (2.0) or better.

A minimum of 36 upper division units are required (see roadmap on page 4). They include Gerontology 350, 360, 250, 400A, 400B, 402, and 520; Psychology 350; Social Work 420*; Sociology 350 or 527; and six units selected with approval of the advisor in Anthropology 309; Child and Family 335; Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences 580; Gerontology 496, 499, 522, and 596 (when appropriate); Exercise and Nutritional Sciences 433; Psychology 456; Recreation 580; and Women’s Studies 310 and 521.

*Prerequisite waived.



Master of Science in Gerontology

Purpose : The Master of Science Degree in gerontology provides a higher level education required by professionals to lead in the field of gerontology.

Goals : The Master of Science degree prepares students to enter professions related to higher education, social services, health services, government, research or business. The program covers such areas as policy, theory and its applications, health and aging, community services, program development, and biostatistical evaluation. As all students write a thesis, the program will also prepare students for entry into doctoral level education.

Requirements : The Master of Science degree requires a minimum of 30 units in core courses, and six units in electives. Students are required to provide:

- Three letters from academic referees in support of their application
- Submit a personal statement outlining their goals, background, interests, and abilities
- Show a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) for combined verbal and quantitative sections of not less than the 30th percentile in each category
- Have a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) during the last 60 semester units of their undergraduate college/university course work

An application package for the graduate program may be obtained from the Graduate Division as described in Part Two of the SDSU Bulletin of the Graduate Division. Students are admitted to the masters program in the fall semester only. Students from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. Applicants whose preparation is deemed insufficient by the Department’s admissions committee may be admitted as conditionally classified and will be required to complete specific courses in addition to the minimum of 36 core units required for the degree (see roadmap page 4).