

WHY STUDY GERONTOLOGY?

Gerontology is the study of the processes of aging, including its biological, psychological, and sociological aspects. In conjunction with a major program of study, a student completing the Minor in Gerontology will be highly competitive for positions in a variety of fields and disciplines.

The first of the massive baby boom generation turned sixty in 2006, and the proportion of the U.S. population that is elderly will continue to increase dramatically well into the foreseeable future. But Montana and other nearby states are aging more rapidly than almost any of the other states. According to the Center for the Rocky Mountain West, by 2025 Montana will rank fourth in the nation with regard to the proportion of the population 65 or older. The U.S. Department of Labor reports there has been and will continue to be huge growth in career opportunities in gerontology.

While the need for those with a firm grounding in gerontology is most obvious in the health and social sciences, an understanding of the aged and the aging process will be useful in all disciplines. The Minor in Gerontology will enhance the education and career prospects of students in fields as diverse as the arts, business, communication studies, education, law, political science, public administration, and recreation management, as well as many others.

GERONTOLOGY ADVISORS

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*If your discipline is not listed,
please contact Cindy Garthwait for assistance.*

INTERDISCIPLINARY GERONTOLOGY MINOR



GENERAL OVERVIEW OF REQUIREMENTS

- Four core courses (12 credits)
- Integrating course with gerontological content within the student's major (3 credits)
- One or two elective courses (3-6 credits)
- Practicum course within the student's major (3 credits)
- Total courses: 21-24 credits

Core Courses

These courses provide students with a common knowledge base through an introduction to gerontology and study of three core areas: social aspects, psychological aspects, and health aspects of aging.

Course and Credits	
HS 325 Introduction to Gerontology Spring semester	3 cr.
SW 455 Social Gerontology Autumn semester	3 cr.
PSYX 233 Fundamentals of Psychology of Aging—Fall and summer semesters	3 cr.
HS/HHP/ SW 430 Health Aspects of Aging (online) Spring and summer semesters	3 cr.

Please contact your advisor about scheduling conflicts. These courses are usually taught as listed, but please check the UM course catalog.

Integrating Courses

In each of the following majors, a course has been identified that will integrate the core course content with information and concepts within the major. A similar course will be identified in other majors not listed here.

Major	Course and Credits	
Economics	ECNS 310 3 cr.	Introduction to Health Economics
Health and Human Performance	HHP 483 3 cr.	Exercise, Disease and Aging
Nursing (MSU)	NURS 377 2 cr.	Introduction to Community Based Nursing
Pharmacy	PHARM 451 3 cr.	Therapeutics I
Political Science	SW 310 3 cr.	Social Welfare Policy and Services
Physical Therapy	PT 520 3 cr.	Development Through the Life Span
Psychology Fall Semester	PSYX 339 3 cr.	Current Topics: Gerontology

Integrating Courses and Credits Continued

Sociology/ Women's and Gender Studies	SOCI 332 3 cr.	Sociology of the Family
Social Work	SW 300 4 cr.	Human Behavior And the Social Environment

Practicum Courses

The courses provide experience working with both well and/or frail older persons.

Major	Course and Credits	
Health and Human Performance	HHP 498 3 cr.	Internship
Nursing (MSU)	NURS 454 6 cr.	Urgent and Palliative Care
Pharmacy	PHAR 585 4 cr.	Geriatric APPE
Physical Therapy	PT 588 4 cr.	Clinical Internship II
Psychology	PSYX 398 3 cr.	Internship
Social Work	SW 398 or SW 489 5 cr.	Field Work Practicum or Internships
Sociology	SOCI 498 3 cr.	Internship
Women's and Gender Studies	WS 398 3 cr.	Internship

Students in majors that do not have access to a practicum course can enroll in HS 326 Geriatric Practicum for up to 3 credits of service learning experience compatible with the student's major and interests. Advisors and the UM Center on Work Based Learning can also help to arrange practicum experiences.



information

Electives

Students are required to complete:

- 3 to 6 elective credits according to their individual interests.
- At least 25% of the content of these courses should be focused on gerontology.

Course and Credits	
ANTH 444 3 cr.	Culture, Health and Healing
COMM 395 3 cr.	Communication and Health
ECNS 310 3 cr.	Introduction to Health Economics
HS 201 2 cr.	Living Well with Disabilities
HS 327 or SW 495 1 cr.	Montana Gerontology Society Annual Conference
HS/SW 495 3 cr.	Psychosocial Aspects of Illness and Disability in Older Persons
NAS 388 3 cr.	Native American Health/Healing
PHIL 421 3 cr.	Medical Ethics
SOCI 332 3 cr.	Sociology of the Family

With the permission of their advisor, students may also petition for a different elective or ask about other alternatives.



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