

There is a need for trained professionals to work in numerous fields related to gerontology, elder care services, and geriatric medicine. Oregon and the nation's population are undergoing a dramatic increase in the percentage of older adults.

According to data compiled by the Administration on Aging, by the year 2030 there will be approximately 70 million Americans aged 65 and over, up from 40 million in 2010. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that Oregon's older adult population is increasing at a rate of 3.5% as compared to the national median of 2.6%.

In addition to the growing older population that will require specialized services, there are also unmet work force training needs. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment in home health care services are expected to increase 69.5% between 2004 and 2014, during the same time period, community care services for older adults are expected to see a 54.8% increase in the need for qualified employees. People from a broad range of career fields who have received training in gerontology will be marketable and provide important services for our community.

An integral component of the gerontology program is a practicum option, which allows students to get real-world experience through two required practicum courses. As recent gerontology alumni have attested, the practicum experience helps students navigate the transition from college to the workforce.

References

- 1 www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Aging_Statistics/Profile/.../2002profile.doc
- 2 www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/release/CB04-36TABLE4.xls



The following are examples of employment opportunities that would be beneficial to someone trained in gerontology:

- Long Term Care Administration
- Skilled Nursing Care Administration
- Senior Center Operations & Management
- Occupational Therapy
- Home Health Care
- Physical Therapy
- Speech Language Pathologists
- Teaching
- Nursing
- Nursing Assistants
- Recreational Therapists
- Social Work
- Research That Focus on Older Adults' Needs and Interests
- Public & Private Institutions That Provide Health, Education, & Social Services to Older Adults
- Senior Care Services
- Hospice
- Palliative Care
- Public Policy & Advocate Work for Older Adults

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I major in psychology and minor in gerontology?

Yes, students can major in psychology and minor in gerontology; however, if a class is used for the minor (e.g., GERO 320), it can't also be used for the major.

2. Will GERO 320 (Introduction to Gerontology) be offered every year and does it have any prerequisites?

Yes, GERO 320 will be offered at least once every year and the only prerequisite is PSY 201.

3. Is a practicum required for this minor?

No, a practicum is not required but it is encouraged (GERO 410W, Gerontology practicum I) as it is a great way to get real-world job experience and make connections in the field.

4. Are there any prerequisites for courses in the gerontology minor?

Yes, there are prerequisite courses for all of the psychology courses. Students are advised to take PSY 201 & PSY 202, one of which can count for the "additional social science course" needed for the Liberal Arts Core Curriculum (LACC).

5. I am a Psychology Major and a Gerontology Minor. Can I use the same course, such as PSY 483 (Adulthood & Aging) for both my major and minor?

No, students cannot "double-dip" or use the same course for your major and minor.

Gerontology Minor

The gerontology minor should be planned with an advisor. The gerontology minor consists of 27 hours of focused courses beyond introductory prerequisite coursework.

Required:

GERO 320	Introduction to Gerontology	4
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Choose three (12 credit hours) from the following:

GERO 360D	Cognitive & Physical Changes in Aging	4
GERO 407	Seminar in Gerontology	4
GERO 410W	Practicum in Gerontology	4
GERO 430	Palliative Care & Chronic Illness	4
GERO 455	Social Ties & Aging	4
GERO 460	Retirement/LTC Housing for the Elderly	4

Choose at least 11 hours from the following:

GERO 120	Medical Terminology	4
GERO 370	Aging & Mental Health	4
GERO 480	Alzheimer's Disease & Other Dementias Management	4
HE 375Q	Epidemiology	4
HE 434W	Diseases	4
HE 485W	Bioethics & Public Health	4
PSY 311	Developmental Psychology	4
PSY 451	Behavioral Neuroscience	4

PSY 461	Psychopharmacology	4
PSY 483	Adulthood & Aging	4
PSY 484	Death, Dying & Grief	4
PS 350	Introduction to Public Policy	3
PS 430	The Aging Society	3
PS 433	Healthcare Politics & Policy	3



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Gerontology Minor



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