

PROGRAM IN GERONTOLOGY

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The gerontology minor at Saint Mary's College educates students about complex issues that equip them to respond constructively to the individual, family, community, societal, and global challenges of aging. Due to dramatic increases in the older population, graduates with a minor in gerontology have an advantage in the job market and are well prepared to make a difference in the world. This minor requires 15 credit hours and integrates well with requirements for most majors. A portfolio is required for completion of the minor.

GERONTOLOGY PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Articulates and applies an understanding of aging processes, including:
 - Demographic changes
 - Diversity in later life
 - Normal physical and psychological changes with aging
 - Preventive health care
 - Treatment of major age-related diseases.
- Explain and apply the following:
 - The various models and theories in gerontology
 - Practical implications of theories
 - Healthcare and social policies related to aging.
- Analyze and apply knowledge of policy and practice issues related to ethics and values in settings serving older adults and their families.
- Articulate an awareness of professional opportunities in gerontology.

PROGRAM IN GERONTOLOGY

Minor in Gerontology—GERO (15 hours)

All of the following:

GERO 201	Gerontology: Services and Policies	3 hours
SW 362	Perspectives in Gerontology	3 hours

Three of the following:

CSD 360	Adult Acquired Language Disorders	3 hours
GERO 320	Alzheimer's Disease	3 hours
PHIL 255	Medical Ethics	3 hours
PSYC 401	Psychology of Adult Development	3 hours
SOC 257	Sociology of Families	3 hours
SW 341	Relationships, Intimacy, and Sexuality Across the Lifespan	3 hours
SW 343	Living Fully, Dying Well: Exploring Loss, Grief and Death Across the Lifespan	3 hours
SW 360	Health and Human Services Administration	3 hours
SW 361	Budgeting and Financial Management for Health and Human Services Administration	3 hours
SW 363	Grant Writing for Health and Human Services Administration	3 hours

NOTE: Other courses (including independent studies and internships within your major) may be substituted by permission

GERONTOLOGY COURSES (GERO)

201 Gerontology: Services and Policies (3)

An overview of programs and policies designed to enable older adults to obtain necessary services, enhance their health, improve or maintain their economic well-being, and provide support to families of the aging. Trends in the aging programs, services, and policies are discussed. Topics include work, retirement, and income maintenance; delivery and regulation of health care; and social or community services that promote well-being in older adults. Visits are made to providers serving older adults and their families, and an experiential learning component is integrated into the course.

320 Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (3)

An introduction to the factors affecting the quality of life of people with dementia and their caregivers: the cultural, social and physical environments, social support, societal attitudes and intervention, and management strategies. Attention is given to the diagnosis of dementia; types, prevalence and course of the illness; behavioral, cognitive, and physical symptoms; ethical and legal issues; professional management and treatment issues; family care-giving issues; and implications for health and social policy.