
Gerontology Certificate Program and Gerontology Minor

Gerontology Faculty

The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth offers a multidisciplinary gerontology certificate program and a minor. The minor is designed for degree candidates from any college in the university who wish to specialize in the gerontological aspects of their own or other disciplines.

The Certificate Program is a multidisciplinary program that is open to UMass Dartmouth students or members of the community, regardless of whether they are university degree candidates.

Although there is no gerontology major, students may use a concentration in gerontology as a key element in a self-designed multidisciplinary studies major program. See the description of multidisciplinary studies elsewhere in the catalog.

Gerontology may serve as a topical concentration of courses within the Humanities/Social Sciences major described elsewhere in this catalog.

Gail Russell (program coordinator) Nursing

Dorothy Bergeron Medical Laboratory Science

Joseph A Bronstad Foreign Languages

Victor Caliri Psychology

John A Chooporian Marketing/Management Information Systems

Philip Cox Philosophy

Phyllis Currier Institutional Nursing

Laura B Forker Management

William Holt Psychology

Barbara Jacobskind English

Susan Leclair Medical Laboratory Science

Kathy A Miraglia Art Education

Judy Schaaf English

Sonia M Walgreen Economics

Certificate Program in Gerontology

Requirements

Advisors for Certificate Program in Gerontology

Gail Russell Professor of Nursing, Ext 8251

Sonia M Walgreen Visiting Lecturer in Economics, Ext 9267

A Certificate in Gerontology will be awarded upon completion of twenty-four credits (8 courses). These include five required courses, a required practicum and two electives selected from the approved list. A student must achieve a minimum of a grade point average of 2.0 in these courses.

Requirements

| | | Credits |
|-----------------------|---|-----------|
| GRT 201 | Introduction to Gerontology | 3 |
| GRT/BIO 216 | Biology of Aging OR | 3 |
| GRT 301 | Health Disorders of the Elderly OR | |
| GRT 312 | Gerontological Nutrition OR | |
| BIO 511 | Seminar: Biological Aspects of Aging | |
| GRT 300 | Aging, Health and Community Support OR | 3 |
| GRT 311 | Topics in Gerontology OR | |
| GRT /ENL 346 | Wise Women OR | |
| GRT/ECO 366 | Economics of Aging | |
| GRT 309 | Mental Health and Aging OR | 3 |
| PSY 490 | Special Topics in Psychology: Psychology of Aging | |
| GRT 430 | Senior Seminar | 3 |
| GRT 421 | Practicum | 3 |
| | Electives (from approved list) | 6 |
| Program total: | | 24 |

A certificate in gerontology is a credential awarded upon completion of an interdisciplinary program of study on aging in contemporary society. The credential requires twenty-four credits including a practicum. The program emphasizes the development of positive attitudes about aging and the aged, an analysis of the impact of society on aging, and the impact of the older population on society. Students will have direct contact with older adults through the practicum in order to reinforce positive attitudes toward the aging. The core knowledge of all persons receiving the credential requires study in the following areas: demography of aging with regard to present and future trends in the U.S. population, biology of aging, psychosocial issues affecting older adults and caregivers, public policy, ethics, financing of health care for older adults, and health promotion for older adults. The certificate program in gerontology reflects the needs of the older population in the community and the local service network for older adults.

The certificate is designed for students enrolled at UMass Dartmouth and community members who are interested in completing the certificate requirements.

Admission

Any UMass Dartmouth student or community member wishing to pursue a Certificate in Gerontology should apply to one of the contact persons above.

Approved Electives

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| GRT 300 | Aging, Health, and Community Support |
| GRT 301 | Health Disorders of the Elderly |
| GRT 302 | Aging in Contemporary Society |
| GRT 309 | Mental Health and Aging |
| GRT 310 | Therapeutic Activities in Long-term Care |
| GRT 311 | Topics in Gerontology |
| GRT 312 | Gerontological Nutrition |
| GRT 435/AED 435 | Art, Artists, Aging and Enjoyment |
| GRT/ECO 366 | Economics of Aging |
| GRT/ENL 346 | Wise Women |
| GRT/PHL 317 | Ethics and Health Care Professionals |
| GRT/PSY 490 | Special Topics in Psychology: Psychology of Aging |
| BIO 511 | Seminar: Biological Aspects of Aging |
| NUR 440/441 | Management in Long Term Care |

Minor in Gerontology

Advisor for the Minor

Dorothy Bergeron (program coordinator) Professor of Medical Laboratory Science, Ext 8584

Gerontology studies aging, a process that may be examined from the perspective of many academic disciplines—biology, psychology, sociology, political science, economics, and health sciences among them. The gerontology minor is a multidisciplinary program supervised by faculty from many disciplines and colleges within the university.

The gerontology minor is intended to open educational and career opportunities for students who have an interest in aging. Participants will be degree candidates from any college in the university who wish to specialize in the gerontological aspects of their own and other disciplines. The minor is also appropriate for students who want to more fully understand the aging process as it relates to the individual and society. The program is structured for students without previous experience or training in gerontology.

Admission

Any undergraduate degree candidate at UMass Dartmouth who has completed 54 credits toward a baccalaureate degree and has at least a 2.5 GPA in the major and a 2.0 overall GPA may be admitted to the gerontology minor. Application for admission should be made to the program coordinator. Special students who are not UMass Dartmouth degree candidates may enroll in individual courses.

Requirements for the Minor

| | <i>Credits</i> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| GRT 201 Introduction to Gerontology | 3 |
| GRT 430 Senior Gerontology Seminar | 3 |
| Electives (from the courses listed) | 12 |
| Program total: | 18 |

At least 9 of the 18 credits must be at the upper-division level.

Courses for the Gerontology Certificate Program and the Minor

GRT 201 three credits **D, G** **Introduction to Gerontology**

An overview of gerontology is presented with emphasis on the integration of the physical, biological, psychological, social, economic and political aspects of aging. Field experience will include a series of interviews with an older person to develop an oral history.

GRT 298 one to six credits

Experiential Learning

Prerequisites: At least sophomore standing; permission of the instructor, department chairperson, and college dean
Work experience at an elective level supervised for academic credit by a faculty member in an appropriate academic field. Conditions and hours to be arranged. Graded CR/NC. For specific procedures and regulations, see selection of catalogue on Other Learning Experiences.

GRT 300 three credits **D, G** **Aging, Health and Community Support**

Prerequisite: GRT 201 or permission of instructor
The course focuses on the older adult who resides in the community. Aging is presented as a normal development stage in the life cycle. Factors that facilitate the achievement of old age as an enjoyable and satisfying time of life will be stressed. Forces that impact negatively on the quality of life of older adults will be analyzed. Relevant gerontological research will be highlighted. Support services and available resources for the older adult will be explored and provide an opportunity for student involvement with the elderly.

GRT 301 three credits **Health Disorders of the Elderly**

Prerequisites: BIO 101, 102; or BIO 221, 222; or permission of instructor
The course focuses on an investigation of physiological and pathological changes which may accompany the aging process in some individuals.

GRT 302 three credits **Aging in Contemporary Society**

This course introduces students to the study of aging through a focus on the social definitions, structures, relations, and problems. The differential role of gender, class, ethnicity, race and geography will be explored in relation to aging in society. Emphasis will be placed on the relationship between aging and key social institutions such as the family, community, education, religion, government, industry

and health care. Students will have opportunities to explore topics through field work and/or written assignments.

GRT 309 three credits **Mental Health and Aging**

This course will provide the student with an understanding of the issues in mental health and mental illness of the aged individual. The course presents an in depth discussion of the etiology, symptoms, and treatments of those mental disorders most frequently encountered in the elderly.

GRT 310 three credits **Therapeutic Activities in Long-Term Care**

Prerequisite: GRT 201 or permission of instructor
Therapeutic recreation for the aging. Topics include: Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act and Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations, calendar planning, program development, resources and activity sharing, management, volunteerism, professionalism, and many aspects of therapeutic recreation with the aging population. Course is applicable towards Massachusetts Certification in Activities for Health Care Professionals and Day Care Recreational Professionals.

GRT 311 three credits **Topics in Gerontology**

Prerequisite: GRT 201
Topics in gerontology not usually included in the gerontology curriculum will be offered

GRT 312 three credits **Gerontological Nutrition**

Prerequisite: NUR 105 or equivalent
Nutritional needs of the older adult. This course focuses on the physiological changes that occur with the aging process and their relationship to the nutritional requirements of the elderly. Assessment of the nutritional status of elders and nutritional services available to this group will also be discussed.

GRT 317 (PHL 317) three credits **C, V** **Ethics and Health Care Professionals**

Prerequisite: Junior standing in Medical Laboratory Science, Nursing, Psychology or Sociology
An examination of the ethical aspects of the health care professions and the impact of ethical issues on the professional's life. Topics include: responsibility, conscience, professional codes of ethics, privacy, informed consent, access to health care, loss and death.

Note: For distribution requirements, and general education requirement, cross-listed courses follow the status they have in their offering department.

GRT 346 (ENL 346) three credits **C**

Wise Women

Prerequisite: ENL 102

Presents a multi-disciplinary perspective of the phenomena of women and aging in American society. The experiences of older women are explored through literature, oral histories, and intergenerational class projects to determine the forces that affect quality of life and productivity in later life.

member in an area covered in a regular course not currently being offered. Conditions and hours to be arranged.

GRT 366 (ECO 366) three credits

Economics of Aging

Prerequisites: ECO 231, 232; or permission of instructor

Economic issues associated with "growing older" as well as issues and policies related to "being older"; including the economic status of the elderly, economic implications of paid work or retirement, the economics impact of social security, health care needs and costs.

GRT 421 three credits

Practicum

Prerequisites: GRT 201 and minimum of one other gerontology core course completed.

The practicum, a required course for the certificate, provides the student an opportunity to synthesize and apply knowledge about older adults either through supervised field experience or a project in gerontology. The practicum is planned to meet the individual needs of the student relative to professional background, personal interests, and career goals

GRT 430 three credits

Senior Seminar

Prerequisites: GRT 201 and the completion of at least six (6) other credits in the minor.

A culminating and integrating seminar with research components open to those accepted as candidates for the minor who have senior standing or to others with permission of the instructor.

GRT 495 variable credit

Independent Study

Prerequisites: Upper-division standing; permission of instructor, department chairperson, and college dean

Study under the supervision of a faculty member in an area not otherwise part of the discipline's course offerings. Conditions and hours to be arranged.

GRT 196, 296, 396, 496 variable credit

Directed Study

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor, department chairperson, and college dean
Study under the supervision of a faculty