



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

University of Georgia  
Athens, Georgia 30602  
univcouncil@uga.edu  
www.uga.edu

University Council

January 17, 2020

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2019-2020

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Undergraduate Student Representative – Melissa Hevener

Graduate Student Representative – Jordan Henley

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the College of Public Health for a new minor in Gerontology will be an agenda item for the January 24, 2020, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

John Maerz, Chair

University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

## PROPOSAL FOR MINOR PROGRAM OF STUDY

1. **School/College:** College of Public Health
2. **Department/Division:** Institute of Gerontology
3. **Proposed Program:** Minor in Gerontology
4. **Proposed Starting Date:** Fall 2020
5. **Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens
6. **Program Description:**

This minor in the established field of Gerontology will pool together existing undergraduate UGA courses relevant to aging. Gerontology is a marketable and in-demand minor for undergraduate students. The foundational/core course (GRNT 3000, Aspects of Aging) is offered through multiple sections every semester, including summer, and still consistently has waitlists. The demand for additional coursework has been clear at UGA, but market analyses conducted by Hanover, Inc. have also shown a need for increased training in gerontology.

### Table 1.1. – Job Projections by Code 2014-2024, United States

Table 1.1 shows one part of the market analysis created by Hanover, Inc. (full report available upon request). The analyses examined long-term employment projections for occupations related to gerontology in the United States. Data show significant predicted increase in employment, and an additional expertise in gerontology will be marketable for a range of majors. This includes, but is not limited to, those majoring in any of the pre-medical fields, in health promotion, psychology, sociology, pharmaceutical sciences, or social work.

SOC TITLE	EMPLOYMENT		CHANGE, 2014-2024		AVERAGE ANNUAL OPENINGS
	2014	2024	NUMBER	PERCENT	
19-3039 Psychologists, All Other	16,600	18,300	1,600	9.6%	520
21-1029 Social Workers, All Other	66,400	68,900	2,500	3.8%	1,850
29-1071 Physician Assistants	94,400	123,200	28,700	30.4%	5,000
29-1141 Registered Nurses	2,751,000	3,190,300	439,300	16.0%	108,840
31-9099 Healthcare Support Workers, All Other	102,700	114,700	12,000	11.7%	3,340
39-9099 Personal Care and Service Workers, All Other	93,200	99,100	5,900	6.3%	2,690

Source: BLS<sup>8</sup>

## **Program of Study:**

All courses used to satisfy the minor must be passed with a grade of "C" or better.

### **Required Core Course – 3 Hours**

#### **GRNT 3000 or GRNT 3000E, Aspects of Aging (3 hours)**

An overview of aging from the biological, psychological, social, and economic perspectives. We will discuss the factors involved in adjustments to the aging process and cover topics including retirement, race/ethnicity, global aging, family, death and bereavement, finances, sexuality, and health. Students will critically examine their own perceptions on aging.

### **Elective Courses – 12 Hours**

Students should choose 12 hours from GRNT courses 3000-level or above, including those listed below. At least 2 courses must be from the GRNT prefix, and no more than 6 credit hours of Gerontology Undergraduate Research series may count toward the minor. Additional courses outside the GRNT prefix may count towards the elective with prior approval by the program director.

#### **GRNT 3200 or GRNT 3200E, Introduction to Lifespan Health Psychology (3 hours)**

The systems, structures and behaviors that support and promote health across the lifespan; focuses on health from pre-natal development through older age.

#### **GRNT 3400 or GRNT 3400E, Cognition and the Aging Brain (3 hours)**

Introduction to changes in cognitive function across the lifespan, with corresponding changes in neurological structures, and behaviors that promote cognitive vitality.

#### **GRNT 3500 or GRNT 3500E, Smart Technology in an Aging Society (3 hours)**

Exploration of how technology enhances the experience of aging from public health perspectives. Focus on ways technology aids in care, independence, and quality of life for older adults, families, and caregivers. Discussion of acceptance, privacy, and policy factors that influence and shape adoption of technology.

#### **GRNT 3700 or GRNT 3700E, Exploring Aging Through Film (3 hours)**

Modern films will be used to illustrate basic aging concepts and theories. Students will learn a wide range of aging concepts and will apply them to film. Discussion of how modern film portrays aging and how these portrayals match the scientific evidence.

#### **GRNT(PSYC) 5266/7266, Death, Dying, and Bereavement (3 hours)**

Multi- and inter-disciplinary approaches are used to explore death, dying, and bereavement from a variety of biopsychosocial perspectives.

**GRNT 4960/GRNT 4970/GRNT 4980, Gerontology Undergraduate Research (1-4 hours)**

Individualized study pursued through CURO, with instructor providing student with hands-on research experience and the opportunity to work one-on-one with research faculty. Will be taught by Gerontology faculty.

**HDFS 3710, Midlife/Elder Years Survey (3 hours)**

Individual and family development during middle and later years. Emphasis is on importance of physical, psychological, and social development within multigenerational relationships.

**HDFS(FHCE) 4500/6500, Aging and the Family (3 hours)**

Review of theory, research, and methodology on aging and the family. Emphasis rests with identifying current concepts and controversies, and diversity in the experiences of families and aging individuals.

**HDFS 5500/7500, Aging and Social Inequalities (3 hours)**

The dynamic interplay between aging, inequalities and privilege occurs through interpersonal interactions, societal institutions, and social policies. In addition to contemporary Western literature examining aging, gender, race-ethnicity, and social class, we also will consider aging in cross-cultural and historical perspectives through the use of comparative and historical readings and discussions.

## Approvals on File

**Proposal:** Minor in Gerontology

**College:** College of Public Health

**Department:** Institute of Gerontology

**Proposed Effective Term:** Fall 2020

School/College:

- Institute of Gerontology Interim Director, Dr. Timothy Heckman, 1/17/20
- College of Public Health Dean, Dr. Marsha Davis, 10/28/19