



**Institute on Aging**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## Undergraduate SPECIALIST IN GERONTOLOGY CERTIFICATE

The Institute on Aging (IOA) was established in 1973 as a unit of the Graduate School and the School of Medicine and Public Health. The IOA's mission is to promote, through excellence in multidisciplinary research, education, and practice, the health and well-being of the rapidly-expanding aging population in our local community, state, and society at large. In keeping with this mission, the Certificate in Aging was designed to be a multidisciplinary program focused on general understanding of life course influences on health and well-being. The program offers students the opportunity to demonstrate specialized coursework in aging to future employers and/or graduate programs, while also providing information that is useful for their own and their family's experience of aging.

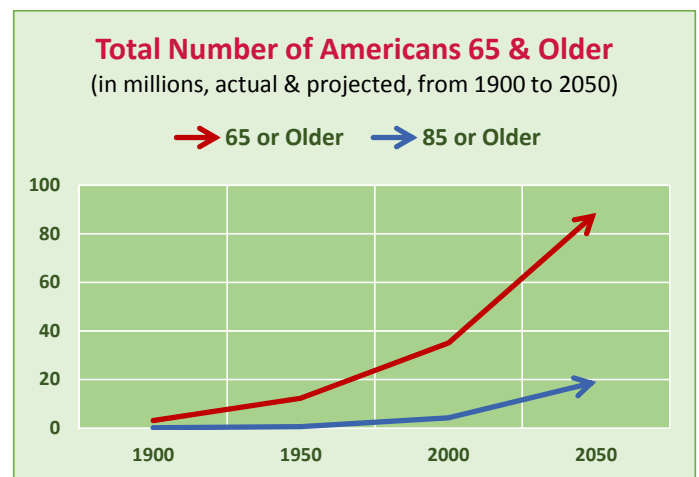
The Certificate Program is intended for undergraduate students. It addresses aging/gerontology as a specialty that supplements more traditional disciplines, rather than as a disciplinary focus in itself. It supplements majors in departments across campus, including, but not limited to, nursing; social work; interior design; psychology; sociology; public policy; economics; population health; human development and family studies; urban planning; environment, textiles, and design; dietetics; and physical therapy.

### Careers in Aging

The number of older adults has increased dramatically in recent decades and will continue into the future. This population shift toward an aging society is accompanied by growing demand for specialists in gerontology and geriatrics. Increased needs for gerontological specialists are evident in multiple traditional fields, such as health care, long-term care administration, law, education, social work, medicine, and occupational, physical, recreation, and rehabilitation therapy. There are also new jobs in emerging areas, such as geriatrics care managers, marketing specialists, program planners, trainers, and consulting.

**Sources of career information include:**

- **Occupational Outlook Handbook**  
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>, search "aging"
- **ExploreHEALTHcareers.org, Geriatrics Overview:**  
<http://explorehealthcareers.org/en/Field/28/Geriatrics>
- **101+ Careers in Aging**  
[http://businessandaging.blogs.com/ecg/101\\_careers\\_in\\_aging](http://businessandaging.blogs.com/ecg/101_careers_in_aging)
- Grabinski, C. J. (2015). *101+ Careers in Gerontology* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New York: Springer.
- Karel, M.J., Gatz, M., & Smyer, M.A. (2012). **Aging and mental health in the decade ahead:** What psychologists need to know. *American Psychologist*, 67, 184-198.  
<http://dx.doi.org.ezproxy.library.wisc.edu/10.1037/a0025393>



Data from agingstats.gov

## **ELIGIBILITY and ENTERING THE PROGRAM**

- We are no longer accepting new students. Only those undergraduates who were registered/e-declared for the certificate by the end of the Spring 2017 semester are eligible to complete the program (see notice about timeline below).
- Certificate declaration and progress toward requirements can be tracked in DARS.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

- The certificate requires **15 credits**, including one required course (3 credits) and electives (12 credits) as outlined in this handout.
- A maximum of 4 credits of Independent Study or Field Work may be used to fulfill elective requirements. Contact the program advisor to explore this option.
- To maintain a multidisciplinary approach, certificate courses must be taken from at least 3 different departments.
- Certificate courses may also count toward degree requirements.
- Refer to the UW Course Guide for certificate course prerequisites.

## **RESIDENCE & QUALITY OF WORK**

- 2.000 GPA must be earned on all course work eligible to meet the certificate requirements.
- 8 credits of certificate course work must be completed In Residence. Contact the program advisor about whether transfer credits from other universities can count toward the certificate.
- Courses may not be taken on a pass/fail or credit/no credit basis.

## **COMPLETING THE PROGRAM:**

- Per university policy, the certificate cannot be awarded until the bachelor's degree is received.
- Shortly before or after graduation, students should notify the IOA that they have completed their certificate program, by sending the advisor a letter that includes:
  - A list of courses used to fulfill certificate requirements.
  - A postal address where the certificate can be sent to the student.
- After the certificate is recorded on the student's UW-Madison transcript, IOA will mail a certificate directly to the student at the address provided.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT TIMELINE FOR COMPLETING THE CERTIFICATE:**

- Students who are currently registered/e-declared for the certificate will have until the **end of Spring semester 2020** to complete their certificate requirements.
- The program will be discontinued thereafter.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Contact the program advisor with general questions or to schedule an appointment about completing the certificate.

**Todd Forsythe, Certificate Program Advisor**

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<b>REQUIRED COURSE Choose 1</b>		<b>3 CREDITS</b>
HDFS 363	Development from Adolescence to Old Age	3 credits
PSYCH 464 (prior to Fall 2017 was 564)	Adult Development & Aging	3 credits
<b>ELECTIVE COURSES</b>		<b>12 CREDITS TOTAL</b>
B M E 662	Design and Human Disability and Aging	3 credits
CS&D 320	Introduction to Audiology	3 credits
DS 221	Person & Environment Interactions	3 credits
GEN&WS 103	Women & Their Bodies in Health and Disease	3 credits
GEN&WS / MED HIST 532	History of the (American) Body	3 credits
GEN&WS / INTL ST 535	Women's Global Health and Human Rights	3 credits
HDFS 516	Stress & Resilience in Families Across the Lifespan	3 credits
KINES 337	Human Anatomy	3 credits
KINES 360	Lifespan Motor Development	3 credits
KINES 521	Physical Activity and Health	3 credits
NURS / S&A PHM / THER SCI 105	Health Care Systems: Interdisciplinary Approach	2 credits
NURS 433	Essentials of Gerontological Nursing	3 credits
NURS 590* Topics Course	*only Community Supports for People with Dementia	1-4 credits
NUTR SCI 375* Special Topics	*only Wisconsin AHEC: the Local to Global Connection	1-4 credits
NUTR SCI 431	Nutrition in the Life Span	3 credits
POP HEALTH 370	Introduction to Public Health: Local to Global Perspectives	3 credits
POP HEALTH / ENVIR ST 471	Introduction to Environmental Health	3 credits
POP HEALTH / ENVIR ST 502	Air Pollution and Human Health	3 credits
POP HEALTH / ANATOMY 575	The Biological Process of Aging	3 credits
PSYCH 601* (prior to Fall 2017 was 411)	Topics Course *only Psychobiology of Stress & Coping	3 credits
PSYCH 532	Psychological Effects of the Internet	4 credits
RP & SE 550	Rehabilitation Psychology- Medical Aspects	2-3 credits
SOC / C&E SOC 532	Health Care Issues for Individuals, Families and Society	3 credits
SOC 575	Sociological Perspectives on the Life Course & Aging	3 credits
SOC / ECON 663	Population & Society	3 credits
SOC WORK / SOC 422	Social Issues in Aging	3 credits
SOC WORK 457	Human Behavior and the Environment	3 credits
SOC WORK 644	Issues in Developmental Disabilities	2-3 credits