

Gerontology

College of Public Health

The Ph.D. program in Gerontology is an interdisciplinary research-oriented degree specifically focused on developing critically holistic and integrative perspectives of aging and health. The program, based in the Graduate Center for Gerontology and the College of Public Health, is organized in a way that combines topical expertise, methodologies and facilities from more than 20 departments ranging from the biomedical sciences, through the social and behavioral sciences, to the humanities.

Admission Requirements

The Ph.D. Program in Gerontology encourages applications from individuals having expressed interests in advanced theoretical and research-based studies of aging processes or aged individuals and populations. Complete applications that will be considered for admission to the Gerontology Program must include:

- Application Form and fee payment,
- Official transcripts of all colleges and universities attended,
- Official report of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
- (International Students) Official TOEFL report
- At least three (3) letters of reference,
- Personal statement of interests, doctoral study plans, and career goals.

Students are encouraged to submit samples of scholarly writing, and are strongly encouraged to visit the program before admission decisions are made. All complete applications will be evaluated not only for evidence of strong academic accomplishment and high professional standards, but for evidence of a strong potential for success in advanced graduate studies and careers in gerontology-related fields.

Degree Requirements

The goal of the Ph.D. program is to provide advanced scholarly development in gerontology. Students will develop critical thinking and methodological skills through the study of topics that concern both the process of aging and the health and well-being of both individuals and populations. In addition, students will develop advanced expertise in related disciplines or areas of specialization. The course of study is flexible, stressing an integrative approach to the selection of course work and research activities. Emphasis is placed on tailoring each student's program to meet the specific needs of the individual's background and career goals. To fulfill these objectives, the program integrates formal course work in gerontology, specialized training in a related domain, opportunities for research, experiential learning modules and a problem focused research seminar. Graduates of the program will be able to conduct aging-related research, teach gerontology at the university level, direct gerontology educational programs, work in the aging services field, and consult with other professionals on various issues pertaining to aging and health.

Approximately 35 faculty from departments throughout the University are involved in the program's instruction and research activities. Departments represented include: Anatomy and Neurobiology, Anthropology, Behavioral Science, Civil Engineering, Communications, Dentistry, Epidemiology, Family Studies, Geography, Health Administration, Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, Management, Neurology, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physiology and Biophysics, Preventive Medicine, Psychology, Rehabilitation Sciences, Social Work, and Sociology. The diversity of the faculty facilitates the comprehensive study of aging and the aged. At the same time it allows for concentration in several areas of particular expertise and program specialization, including: rural aging, long-term care, cognitive and sensory change, public policy, ethical

issues, and the etiology and treatment of Alzheimer's disease, strokes, and other diseases prevalent among the elderly.

The Ph.D. program maintains close linkages with the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, a Commonwealth Center of Excellence, which offers a broad base of programmatic support for the program as well as serving as the home of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and the Stroke Center. Numerous sites for clinical/experiential training are available at various clinics, agencies and organizations, including but not limited to: The Kentucky Division of Aging Services, the University of Kentucky Hospital, Christian Health Center (a University-affiliated nursing home), Best Friends Alzheimer's Day Care Program, University of Kentucky Geriatric Support Services, University of Kentucky Memory Disorders Clinic, University of Kentucky Center for Rural Health, the Center for Creative Living, Cardinal Hill Hospital, St. Claire Medical Center, Northeast Area Health Education Center and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Further information may be obtained by writing to:

John Watkins, Ph.D., Director of Graduate Studies

Graduate Center for Gerontology

401 Multidisciplinary Sciences Building

University of Kentucky

Lexington, KY 40536-0082

<http://www.uky.edu/publichealth/departments/gerontology>

Ph.D. Requirements

Students are required to complete the core curriculum in gerontology and 12 hours in an area of specialization. Elective courses to be taken will be recommended by each student's Advisory Committee.

Core Requirements

CPH 605 Epidemiology (3 hr)

CPH 663 Issues in Public Health (3hr)

GRN 600 A Study of the Older Person (3 hrs)

GRN 612 Biology of Aging (3 hrs)

GRN 620 Human Aging and Adjustment (3 hrs)

GRN 650 Research Design in Gerontology (4 hrs)

GRN 656 Integrative Studies in Gerontology (3 hrs)

STA 570 (4) or 580 (3) Basic Statistical Analysis / Biostatistics

Elective Methods (6 hrs minimum)

Approved courses in area of specialization (minimum of 12 hrs)

Elective courses should be selected by the student with the guidance of the student's advisor and/or Advisory Committee. No more than 9 hours of independent readings or research may be used to fulfill this requirement.

It is assumed that students entering with M.S. or M.A. degrees will have taken some of the required courses or their equivalent. The student's Advisory Committee, in conjunction with the DGS, will determine the amount of prior course work to be credited toward specific requirements.

Committee Composition Requirements

Doctoral advisory committees conform to Graduate School requirements. Selection of committee members is done by the student with consultation and approval of the student's chair, co-chair (if applicable) and the

DGS. Final determinations of whether membership requirements are met are made by the DGS.

Possible elective courses from within or outside the Gerontology Program that may be selected by the student or required by the student's Advisory Committee include but are not limited to those listed below:

Gerontology Electives

GRN 513	Geriatric Pharmacy	(3)
GRN 585	Aging and Environment	(3)
GRN 610	Psychology of Aging	(3)
GRN 612	Biology of Aging	(3)
GRN 615	Seminar in Teaching Medical Science (Medical Science Teaching I)	(2)
GRN 616	Teaching Seminar in Gerontology	(2)
GRN 617	Teaching Practicum in Gerontology	(3)
GRN 618	Epidemiology of Aging	(3)
GRN 643	Biomedical Aspects of Aging	(3)
GRN 644	Demography and Aging	(3)
GRN 651	Qualitative Gerontology	(3)
GRN 652	Quantitative Gerontology	(3)
GRN 653	Laboratory Research in Gerontology	(1)
GRN 660	Aging and Family Values	(3)
GRN 704	Mental Health and Aging	(3)
GRN 705	Cognitive Aging	(3)
GRN 710	Aging of the Nervous System	(3)
GRN 715	Health Policy and Aging	(3)
GRN 720	Gerontology/Geriatric Dentistry	(1)
GRN 731	Elder Mistreatment	(3)
GRN 770	Special Topics in Gerontology	(1-6)
GRN 771	Aging in Rural Environments	(3)
GRN 772	Aging and the Life Course	(3)
GRN 773	Ethics and Aging	(3)
GRN 774	Aging and Public Policy	(3)
GRN 775	Clinical Geriatrics	(3)
GRN 778	Current Topics in Brain Aging	(3)
GRN 780	Applied Gerontology Practicum	(1-3)
GRN 781	Applied Gerontology Practicum II	(1-3)
GRN 782	Women's Health and Aging	(3)
GRN 783	Public Health and Aging	(3)
GRN 785	Independent Research in Gerontology	(1-6)
GRN 786	Independent Readings in Gerontology	(1-6)
GRN 790	Professional Development in Gerontology	(1)