MASTER OF ARTS IN GERONTOLOGY

Graduate Advisors: de Vries, Takagi, Yee-Melichar

The Master of Arts in Gerontology consists of 33 units which include ten required core courses and one elective course. The required internship (6 units), included in the core consists of student placement in an off-campus facility or organization. Numerous facilities and organizations collaborate with the graduate program in offering internships in clinical, community and institutional settings. The required culminating experience (3 units) also included in the core, consists of a culminating project course integrating bodies of knowledge from the required courses. This usually translates into a two-year academic program.

Admission to Program

A prospective student must fulfill the general University requirements as stated in the section of the Graduate and Post-baccalaureate Admissions of this Bulletin. To be considered for unconditional admission to the M.A. in Gerontology, the applicant must have completed an undergraduate major in an appropriate field with a minimum grade point average of 3.0. Applicants whose undergraduate major did not include gerontology courses should consult the graduate coordinator about prerequisite courses in gerontology. If the applicant’s undergraduate record meets the basic requirements and gives promise of a successful pursuit of graduate work, the program will recommend admission to graduate classified status or graduate conditionally classified status specifying the conditions and time limit within which they must be met.

Students will be expected to meet the following criteria:

- Meet the admissions standards of the University.
- Have an earned undergraduate grade point average of 3.0.
- Have completed an introductory course in gerontology or its equivalent.
- Have documented experience or competence in interpersonal/group communication skills as demonstrated in a personal interview with the admissions committee, letters of recommendation, or course work.
- Have completed a course in statistics with a grade of C or better. Competence may be demonstrated by passing a statistics proficiency test.
- Three letters of recommendation from faculty and/or employers.

Written English Proficiency Requirement

Level One Preadmission

Indicate the ability to write in a proficient manner by satisfactorily completing the GRE with a passing score of at least 4.0. Prospective students will also be required to submit a written statement of purpose for pursuing the graduate degree in gerontology. Applicants who do not pass the GRE, or who do not submit a well-written statement of purpose, will be advised to enhance their writing proficiency by taking a prerequisite course and then reapply to the program.

Level Two

Indicate the ability to write in a scholarly manner in the discipline by satisfactorily completing GRN 890 for the culminating experience requirement.

Requirements for Graduation

- Meet all general requirements for submission of the Advancement to Candidacy (ATC).
- Successfully complete core and elective courses.
- Successfully complete GRN 838/GRN 839, and GRN 890. Students are required to complete GRN 890 as their capstone or culminating experience. In this course, students will prepare and present an integrative paper on a topic of professional relevance. Each student paper requires a second reader, thus fulfilling culminating experience Graduate Division requirements and ensuring both breadth and comprehension. If necessary, students must maintain continuous enrollment in GRN 897 until they have completed their culminating experience requirements.
- Demonstrate ability to maintain a 3.0 grade point average in graduate study.
- With the assistance of a Gerontology program advisor, choose a faculty committee that will be responsible for evaluating the oral presentation and written paper in the integrative seminar.

Gerontology (M.A.) – 33 units

Required Courses (30 units)

- GRN 705 Aging in a Multidimensional Context 3
- GRN 710 Aging Processes: Health and Human Services 3
- GRN 715 Age and Social Policy Analysis 3
- GRN 725 Aging and Diversity 3
- GRN 735 Ethical and Legal Issues in Aging and Social Services 3
- GRN 760 Research Methods in Gerontology 3
- GRN 765 Aging and Continuum of Care 3
- GRN 838 Gerontology Seminar 3
- GRN 839 Gerontology Internship 3
- GRN 890 Integrative Seminar 3

Elective (3 units)

An elective course may be chosen from various graduate programs, including Consumer & Family Studies/Dietetics; Counseling; Criminal Justice, Environmental Studies, Health Education; Kinesiology; Nursing; Recreation, Parks, and Tourism; Management; Public Administration; Social Work; and Urban Studies and Planning.