

# GERONTOLOGY, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

## Program Description

The intercollege minor in Gerontology is designed for students to gain an in-depth understanding of the aging process and old age. With the growth of the number of older people in the population, increased need has arisen for people with knowledge of the aging process in a variety of professional and occupational roles. In conjunction with the student's major, the minor prepares students for entry-level human service positions working with the elderly, or for graduate or professional school programs including communication disorders, counseling, health planning and administration, medicine, psychology, recreation and park management, and social work where knowledge of the aging process and problems of older people is relevant. Eighteen credits are required for the minor, including at least 6 credits at the 400 level.

## What is Gerontology?

Gerontology is the comprehensive study of aging as a developmental process using the many disciplinary frameworks of the biological, life, and health sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and arts and humanities. The intercollege minor in Gerontology at Penn State offers students in all colleges and campuses an opportunity to learn about this complex and important field through multidisciplinary study. As scientific and societal successes extended the human lifespan, population aging has now become a common phenomenon across many nations. There is enormous need for individuals with an understanding of aging processes who can work as clinicians, health professionals, managers, researchers and more.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GERONTOLOGY (<http://healthyaging.psu.edu>)

## You Might Like This Program If...

- You want to learn more about the aging process and problems of older people.
- You want to prepare for an entry-level position working with elderly individuals or elderly populations.
- You plan to pursue a graduate or professional school program in a field in which knowledge of the aging process and problems of older people is relevant, such as communication disorders, counseling, health planning and administration, medicine, psychology, recreation and park management, or social work.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHY STUDENTS CHOOSE TO STUDY GERONTOLOGY (<http://businessandaging.blogs.com/>)

## Program Requirements

Requirement	Credits
Requirements for the Minor	18

## Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10>).

In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student's major(s).

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
HDFS 249N	Adult Development and Aging	3
<b>Additional Courses</b>		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
BIOL 155 or SOC 35	Introduction to the Biology of Aging Sociology of Aging	3
SOC 435/ HDFS 434 or HDFS 445/ PSYCH 416	Perspectives on Aging Development Throughout Adulthood	3
<b>Supporting Courses and Related Areas</b>		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 9 credits of the following:		9
ADTED 460	Introduction to Lifelong Learning and Adult Education	
AYFCE/CIED 845	Intergenerational Programs and Practices (must be approved by the Graduate School)	
BBH 316	Foundations and Principles of Health Promotion	
BBH 410	Developmental and Health Genetics	
BBH/HPA 440	Principles of Epidemiology	
BIOL 155	Introduction to the Biology of Aging	
CAS 421	Communication and Aging	
HDFS 413	Developmental Problems in Adulthood	
HDFS 445/ PSYCH 416	Development Throughout Adulthood	
HDFS 446	Programs and Services in Gerontology	
HDFS 447	Issues in Gerontology	
HM 306	Hospitality in Senior Living	
HPA 101	Introduction to Health Services Organization	
HPA 332	Health Systems Management	
HPA 442	Long-Term Care Management	
KINES 465	Neurobiology of Sensorimotor Stroke Rehabilitation	
KINES 481W	Scientific Basis of Exercise for Older Adults	
NURS 115	Medications and the Elderly Client	
NURS 310	Therapeutic Nursing Care of the Older Adult Client in a Variety of Settings	
NURS 464	Dying and Death	
RM 401	Fundamentals of Private Pensions	
SOC 35	Sociology of Aging	
SOC 423	Social Demography	
SOC 435	Perspectives on Aging	

*Note:* Students may enroll in special topics courses (297, 497) that focus on aging or old age, with faculty permission. With faculty approval, students may also enroll for independent studies in their major department to write a senior thesis focused on an issue of aging.

## Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

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## Career Paths

With the growth in the number of older persons in the U.S. and globally, nearly every health profession, from geriatricians (physicians who specialize in care for older persons) to hospice nurses, is impacted by the need for health care among an aging population. In addition, older people are living more active lives, so fitness and recreational professionals and hospitality and tourism managers see increased demand from older persons. And, the increase in the aging population is placing new challenges on organizations, families, and communities, so anyone interested in these societal organizations will be affected by gerontological issues.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES WITH A MINOR IN GERONTOLOGY (<https://agework.geron.org/>)

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (<https://www.geron.org/academy-for-gerontology-in-higher-education-aghe/>)

## Contact

### University Park

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<https://hhd.psu.edu/undergraduate/minors> (<https://hhd.psu.edu/undergraduate/minors/>)

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<https://shenango.psu.edu/academics/majors-shenango/human-development-family-studies> (<https://shenango.psu.edu/academics/majors-shenango/human-development-family-studies/>)