Master of Arts (M.A.) in Gerontology

Gerontology is the interdisciplinary study of aging and the older adult population. A graduate degree in Gerontology uniquely enriches one's knowledge and skills to serve diverse needs of older adults, their families and communities. Gerontology is one of the fastest growing disciplines within the areas of health and human services.

Current demographic projections indicate that California will experience a doubling of the population over the age of 65 by the year 2020; of all age groups, the group over age 85, the oldest old, is increasing at the greatest rate. Not only will there be greater numbers of older persons by 2020, they will be increasingly single, female, and culturally diverse.

SF State's Gerontology Program is designed to enable students to meet the growing needs of an aging population in the Bay Area, California, nationally and globally in the 21st century. We invite your participation to help us address the individual, societal and global potential of aging.

Gerontology Program

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- gerontology.sfsu.edu

Faculty

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Lecturers

Edwin Cabigao, Ph.D., RN
Christopher Cherney, M.A., LNHA
Cristina Flores, Ph.D., RN
Gwen Harris, M.A., MFT
Patricia McGinnis, J.D.
Monika Scott, M.A., LMFT

“It’s not how old you are... It’s how you are old”
A Master of Arts in Gerontology prepares students for effectively serving the needs of diverse groups of older adults. It also lays a firm academic foundation in applied gerontology for those who choose to work toward a doctoral degree. Students may choose a number of career paths in the field of aging within the public and private sectors.

The graduate program is dedicated to:
- Interdisciplinary education
- Multiple approaches to meeting the needs of the diverse aging population
- Research to expand bodies of knowledge about aging
- Effective practice relevant to aging populations
- Community applications to advocate for improving the quality of life for the aged

SF State's Gerontology program was established in 1986 and was the first gerontology program in the California State University or University of California systems. The M.A. in Gerontology is a program of the School of Public Affairs & Civic Engagement (PACE) within the College of Health & Social Sciences (CHSS).

The program emphasizes an applied, skill-based approach to professional education, drawing upon the expertise of the faculty and the strengths of the University and community.

Our richly diverse, multicultural environment provides a natural laboratory for understanding and developing competencies around the aging experiences of different cultural groups.

Students gain knowledge of the discipline and its theoretical foundations. They are prepared with tools that allow them to use quantitative and qualitative methods in applied research for solving a variety of practical problems in the community.

A prospective student must fulfill the general University requirements as stated in the Graduate and Post-baccalaureate Admissions section of the SF State Bulletin. Students whose undergraduate major did not include gerontology courses should consult the graduate coordinator about prerequisite courses in Gerontology.

Admission to the Program

To be considered for admission, students will be expected to:
- Meet the admissions standards of the University
- Have an earned undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 or higher
- Have completed an introductory course in gerontology or have equivalent experiences
- Have documented experience or competence in interpersonal/group communication skills as demonstrated in a personal interview with the admissions committee, letters of reference or coursework
- Have completed a course in statistics with a grade of C or better
- Submit three letters of recommendation from faculty and/or employers
- Demonstrate Level One writing proficiency

The program has scholarships available for students; please visit sfsu.academicworks.com. In addition, faculty often are working on projects in which they have funds to hire teaching and research assistants.

Program Description

The M.A. in Gerontology consists of 33 units which includes 10 required core courses and one elective course. The required internship (6 units) consists of student placement in an off-campus facility or organization. Numerous facilities and organizations collaborate with the graduate program in offering internships in applied, community and institutional settings. The required culminating experience (3 units) consists of a culminating project course integrating bodies of knowledge from required courses. This usually translates into a two-year academic program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRN 705</td>
<td>Aging in a Multidimensional Context</td>
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<td>GRN 710</td>
<td>Aging Processes: Health and Human Services</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>GRN 715</td>
<td>Age and Social Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>GRN 725</td>
<td>Aging and Diversity</td>
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<td>GRN 735</td>
<td>Ethical and Legal Issues in Aging and Social Services</td>
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<td>GRN 760</td>
<td>Research Methods in Gerontology</td>
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<td>GRN 765</td>
<td>Aging and Continuum of Care</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>GRN 838</td>
<td>Gerontology Internship Education</td>
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<td>GRN 839</td>
<td>Gerontology Internship Fieldwork</td>
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<td>GRN 890</td>
<td>Integrative Seminar</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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<td>Minimum Total</td>
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<td>33</td>
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Student Scholarships

The M.A. in Gerontology requires 10 required core courses and one elective course.