Gerontology, Cert

Department: Family, Consumer, and Human Development Department
College: Emma Eccles Jones College of Education & Human Services

Overview

About This Degree

The gerontology certification program is an interdepartmental program designed to help prepare students for careers involving older individuals. USU is one of only two universities in the state that offers this certificate.

This certificate complements a variety of majors, including sociology, psychology, social work, and any health-related majors. Students take required courses in family, consumer, and human development, and choose electives for the remainder of their classes from areas including sociology, social work, nutrition, and more.

Aging services is a growing field, and learning about the concerns and needs of older adults in this program can make students more marketable when they graduate.

In addition to required and elective coursework, students participate in a gerontology practicum, in which they gain experience in the field for course credit. They also participate in the Student Gerontology Association, which provides service to the community and gives them exposure to professional opportunities in the field.

Distance Education

The gerontology certificate is available through USU's Regional Campuses and Distance Education program.

Career Options

This certificate can complement a student's major to prepare them to work with older adults in a variety of settings, including:

- Senior citizen centers
- Residential care centers
- Long-term care facilities
- Counseling facilities
- Health education programs
- Advocacy/intervention programs
- Agency on Aging offices
- Federal organizations that provide services
- Nonprofit service organizations for the elderly

Career Services provides counseling and information on hundreds of job and internship opportunities and even helps students apply and interview.

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

To be admitted to the gerontology certificate program, students must complete the following application process:

- Complete the gerontology certificate application specifying your intended course of study
- Provide a current unofficial student transcript
- Complete a one- to two-page essay as outlined on the last page of the application form

Major Requirements

Click here to see course requirements for the **Certificate (UG)**.

Students are required to participate in the USU Student Gerontology Association for a minimum of two semesters.

Contact

Advising

All new USU students participate in a New Student Orientation program, where they receive detailed information about major requirements, registering for classes, and other important advising information.

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Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

Student Gerontology Association: The USU SGA is a service club that is open to any student interested in serving or working with the aging community. Students have the opportunity to help with holiday parties and other activities at assisted living centers in the community each semester. Members also meet professionals in aging services who can offer insight into this career field. The Student Gerontology Association is open to any student across campus, even if they do not participate in the gerontology certificate program.

Labs, Centers, Research

With the second oldest undergraduate research program in the nation, USU offers students a wide range of opportunities to gain hands-on research experience. The Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities program allows students to apply for grants and receive funding. USU's Honors Program prepares students for excellent graduate programs by helping them build relationships with professors, participate in research projects, take smaller, more intensive classes, and develop leadership skills.

Major research projects in the field of gerontology are conducted at USU across various departments. Students interested in gerontology, regardless of whether or not they are enrolled in the gerontology certificate program, can work closely with faculty on nationally recognized projects.