

USU GERONTOLOGY CERTIFICATION

The Gerontology Certificate is an interdepartmental program administered by the Department of Family, Consumer, and Human Development in the College of Education and Human Services to help prepare students for professional careers in gerontology. The program is available to USU students who are working on a degree and who meet the admission criteria. A Gerontology Certificate is awarded upon completion of certification requirements. Students must complete the certification requirements within two years following graduation*. The certificate may be useful in obtaining employment in agencies which administer programs for the aging population. The Gerontology Certificate focuses on academic and practical experiences in understanding and working with the aging population. Requirements include 13 credits of course work, 150 clock hours (3 credits) of practical experience (FCHD 4970), an integrative paper, and participation in the USU Student Gerontology Association for a minimum of two semesters.

*Exceptions to the above criteria must be approved by the certificate coordinator.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Required Course Work* (6 Credits)

The following are required courses which total 6 semester credit hours:

FCHD 3540**	Adult Development and Aging (3)
FCHD 4240**	Social and Family Gerontology (3)
	<u>or</u> NFS 4480 Community Nutrition

2. Elective Course Work* (6 credits)

Students are encouraged to choose electives that will be most applicable to their chosen field of study. A minimum of 6 semester credit hours of electives are required from the following approved courses:

	COMD 2910	Sign Language I (3)
	FCHD 3340	Housing: Societal and Environmental Issues (3)
	FCHD 3350**	Family Finance (3)
HEP	3200 Consumer Health	Health (3)
	MUSC 3320	Psychology of Music I (2) (see instructor)
	NFS 2020**	Nutrition Through the Life Cycle (3)
	NFS 4540	Nutritional Assessment (3)
	NFS 4550**	Clinical Nutrition I (2)
	NFS 5200	Nutritional Epidemiology (2)
	NFS 5630**	Nutrition in Aging (2)
	PHIL 3500	Medical Ethics (3)
	POLS 3810	Introduction to Public Policy (3)
	PRP 3100**	Leisure and Aging (2)
	PRP 4500**	Diverse Populations (3)
	PSY 1210**	Human Adjustment (3)
	PUBH 3120	Family and Community Health (3)
	SOC 3200	Population and Society (3)
	SOC 3330	Medical Sociology (3)
	SOC 3600	Sociology of Urban Places (3)
	SOC 6460	Sociology of Health (3)
	SW 3550**	Social Gerontology (3)
	SW 3750**	Medical Social Services (3)
	SW 4900**	Special Topics (if related to Aging) (3)

Other courses not listed are subject to approval by Gerontology Certificate Coordinator, who will need to see the syllabus, and may ask to see assignments and a writing sample from the course.

* All Gerontology course work must carry a letter grade. Gerontology courses may not be taken pass/fail.

** May have prerequisites

***May be taken PASS/FAIL

(Information and forms updated 9/200;)

3. Gerontology Practicum (3 - 6 Credits; at least 3 Credits are required)

FCHD 4970 Gerontology Practicum (3)

All students are required to complete a total of 3 semester hours (150 clock hours) of FCHD 4970 Gerontology Practicum credit. This includes practical experiences working in a professional setting that deals directly with the elderly. Approved practicum sites are available in the Cache Valley area. Students may also arrange their own practicum; however, the site must first be approved by the Gerontology Practicum Coordinator. All Gerontology Practica are arranged through the Gerontology Practicum Coordinator, Grant Bartholomew (Phone: 797-1593).

Students must have completed a minimum of 6 semester credits of certification course work, have an overall GPA of 2.75, and have a 2.75 GPA in all gerontology courses in order to begin practicum hours. Students must also complete a practicum application and be approved prior to registering for FCHD 4970. (See page 3 for information on the practicum application process).

4. Integrative Paper

FCHD 4940 Gerontology Integration Paper (1)

Upon completion of all course work and practicum hours, an 8 - 10 page integrative paper is required prior to awarding the certificate. The purpose of this paper is to give students an opportunity to consolidate their academic knowledge and integrate it with practical experiences in their chosen fields of study. Therefore, papers should focus on aging-related topics relevant to students' major areas of study. Students must have their paper topic approved by the Gerontology Program Coordinator prior to writing the paper (see page 7). The paper must be completed and receive a passing grade before a student can receive the certificate. (See page 11 for advice on writing the paper).

While writing the integrative paper, students must register for 1 credit of FCHD 4940 (Gerontology Integration). This class meets once per month and is designed to help students structure their paper-writing. Off-campus students can register for the class and consult with the Gerontology Program Coordinator by phone. Note: Non-completion of the paper leads to an incomplete in FCHD 4940, which may delay graduation.

5. Professional Development

Students are required to participate in the USU Student Gerontology Association for a minimum of two semesters. The purpose of such participation is to expose students to a variety of professionals in the field as well as to new techniques in research and practice related to the aging population. Students are also encouraged to attend professional conferences related to the gerontology field when possible. Funds are often available through the USU SGA to support student attendance at conferences.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Admittance in the Gerontology Certificate Program

Students are encouraged to integrate the Gerontology Certificate Requirements into their regular course work under the guidance of their academic advisors. Students are required to have a cumulative minimum GPA of 3.0 for admission to the program and a 3.0 GPA in all gerontology course work, to receive the certificate. (To calculate your GPA, go to <http://www.usu.edu/ats/gpa-calculator3.html> and enter in grade and credits.)

The application process includes the completion of the following:

1. Gerontology Certificate Application (see pages 5 and 6), specifying the student's intended course of study.
2. A current unofficial student transcript.
3. A short, one to two page essay as outlined on the last page of the application form.

2. Admittance to Practicum

Students must have completed a minimum of 6 semester credits of certification course work, have an overall GPA of 3.0, and have a 3.0 GPA in all gerontology courses in order to begin practicum hours.

The application process includes the completion of the following:

1. Obtain a Gerontology Certification Practicum Handbook (FCHD 4970) from the Gerontology Practicum Coordinator (Interim Director of FL 217).
2. Complete the Practicum Application (including appropriate signatures) which is located in the Practicum Handbook.
3. Return the completed application, two Letters of Recommendation (see Practicum Handbook) in envelopes with the seals signed by the references, and an unofficial copy of your transcript to the Gerontology Practicum Coordinator's office in FL 217 by the deadline. Practicum application deadline dates are as follows:

Desired Semester of Practicum	Application Due Date
Fall Semester Practicum	Two months prior to the beginning of your Practicum
Spring Semester Practicum	Two months prior to the beginning of your Practicum
Summer Semester Practicum	Two months prior to the beginning of your Practicum

4. Once the student's paper work has been received and approved by both the Practicum Coordinator and the Certificate Coordinator, the student will be notified.

5. Once notified of approval, the student should make an appointment with the Practicum Coordinator in FL 217 to arrange for a practicum placement. (The student should study the Practicum Site Handbook available in FL 214 prior to this in order to determine his or her preference for placement.) Practicum site placement must be completed at least two months prior to the beginning of the practicum experience. Out-of-area practicum sites or sites not listed in the handbook must be approved by the Practicum Coordinator.
6. During registration, students register for the practicum credits (FCHD 4970) by having the Practicum Coordinator sign an Add/Drop slip. This must be done in order to register for the practicum experience. In addition to the student's regular tuition and fees, a \$75 practicum fee will be assessed at the beginning of each semester in which the student is registered for practicum credits. Thus, it is financially beneficial for the student to complete the practicum experience during one semester.

3. Special Certificate

When a student is preparing to graduate, the Application for Special Certificate (see page 13) should be completed and turned in to the certificate coordinator. This form must be received by:

	<u>Semester of Completion</u>	<u>Application</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Fall	Semester Completion	November	November 1
Spring	Semester Completion	February	February 1
	Summer Semester Completion		April 1

Gerontology Program Coordinator
 Elizabeth Fauth
 FL 215 FL
 (435) 797-1989 (435)
dgjffauth@usu.edu

FCHD/ Gerontology Practicum Coordinator
 *****I tcpvDctj qmjo gy
 217
 797-1593
 " itcpv@ctjyqmjogy@usu.edu

GERONTOLOGY CERTIFICATE APPLICATION

Name _____ USU ID # _____ a _____
 Local Address _____ Phone "" _____
 _____ Email " _____
 Permanent Address _____ Permanent Phone ""aa _____
 _____ "Rrppgf 'I tcf wvlp 'F cvg _____

Major _____ Minor(s) _____

___ Freshman ___ Sophomore ___ Junior ___ Senior ___ Graduate Student

Current Overall GPA _____ (must be 3.0 or above)

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Required Courses (6 semester hours) Semester/Year completed/planned

_____ FCHD 3540*Adult Development and Aging (3)	_____
_____ FCHD 4240*Social and Family Gerontology (3)	_____
_____or NFS 4480* Community Nutrition (3)	_____

2. Electives (minimum 6 semester hours) Semester/Year completed/planned

_____ COMD 2910Sign Language I (3)	_____
_____ FCHD 3340 Housing: Societal and Environmental Issues (3)	_____
_____ FCHD 3350*Family Finance (3)	_____
_____ HEP 3200 Consumer Health (3)	_____
_____ MUSC 3320 Psychology of Music I (2)	_____
_____ NFS 2020* Nutrition Thru the Life Cycle (3)	_____
_____ NFS 4540 Nutritional Assessment (3)	_____
_____ NFS 4550* Clinical Nutrition I (2)	_____
_____ NFS 5200 Nutritional Epidemiology (2)	_____
_____ NFS 5630* Nutrition in Aging (2)	_____
_____ PHIL 3500 Medical Ethics (3)	_____
_____ POLS 3810 Introduction to Public Policy (3)	_____
_____ PRP 3100* Leisure and Aging (2)	_____
_____ PRP 4500* Diverse Populations (3)	_____
_____ PSY 1210* Human Adjustment (3)	_____
_____ PUBH 3120 Family and Community Health (3)	_____
_____ SOC 3200 Populations and Society (3)	_____
_____ SOC 3330 Medical Sociology (3)	_____
_____ SOC 3600 Sociology of Urban Places (3)	_____
_____ SOC 6460 Sociology of Health (3)	_____
_____ SW 3550* Social Gerontology (3)	_____
_____ SW 3750* Medical Social Services (3)	_____
_____ SW 4900* Topical Issues (if related to Aging, 3)	_____

*These courses may have prerequisites.

3. Practicum Experience

(3 semester hours total, 150 clock hours)

Semester(s)/Year(s) to be taken

_____ FCHD 4970 Gerontology Practicum

Preferred location or type of practicum experience desired

4. Gerontology Integrative Paper

Semester(s)/Year(s) to be taken

_____ FCHD 4940 Gerontology Integration (1) _____

5. Please submit a short one or two page typed essay which discusses the following:

1. Why have you chosen to complete the Gerontology Certificate?
2. What are your career and educational goals?
3. What past exposure have you had to gerontology?

6. Please submit this application, the essay, and a current unofficial transcript, to:

De
2905
Logan,

Gerontology Certification Program
Department of Family, Consumer, & Human Development
Old Main Hill
UT 84322-2905

Signature of Student _____

Date _____

Integrative Paper Tracking Form
USU Gerontology Certificate

Student's Name: _____

USU ID #: _____

Integrative Paper

Proposed Topic: _____

Research Question(s): _____

In addition, please submit a 2-page proposal of your Integrative paper that includes at least 2-3 research article summaries. Please include the following in your proposal:

- **Introduction**
- **Topic/Research Questions**
- **What you learned from your practicum that answers your research questions**
- **Summaries of 2 to 3 research articles**
- **Conclusion, including time-line for your paper to be done and your plans for meeting with Professor**

Proposal Received/Approved: _____

(E. Fauth) Date

Paper Received and Passed: _____

(E. Fauth) Date

Comments:

STRUCTURE FOR GERONTOLOGY PAPER

(Approximately 8 - 10 pages in length. This is to be a formal, academic paper)

Section A: TITLE PAGE

Section B: ABSTRACT

-200 word summary

Section C: INTRODUCTION

-Explain why your topic is important. This section should convince the reader to continue reading.

-Explain why/how this topic became important to you. (Ex. You saw particular behaviors in nursing home residents, etc.)

-End this section with the question you would like to research. (Ex. "How do old age policies in the U.S. and Germany differ from each other?")

Section D: SUMMARY OF RESEARCH IN YOUR AREA OF INTEREST

-Use a minimum of 10 references which can include:

1. Articles from the *Gerontologist*, *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, *International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, *Psychology of Aging*, *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, or journals from your field of specialization (physical therapy, sociology, etc.).
2. Books dealing with your topic.
3. Unpublished scholarly papers by experts in the field.
4. In-depth magazine or newspaper articles. (No more than 2 of these.)
5. Interviews with professionals in the field.
6. Approved internet citations (see Coordinator).

Section E: SUMMARY OF YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THE TOPIC

-If you have encountered the issues you discussed above in your practicum, relate your experience to what the professional literature says.

Section F: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

-Summarize what you have learned and recommend how this should be applied in professional settings, policy, and/or personal interactions (depending on your topic).

Section G: REFERENCES

-List all of your references, properly cited in APA format, in your paper. Students may access the APA manual in the reference section of the Merrill Library.

-A professionally written paper includes the correct use of grammar, syntax, and spelling. Students may find it helpful to utilize the Writing Lab in Ray B. West Building.

-Papers which are not college level writing will not receive a passing grade.

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL CERTIFICATE
GERONTOLOGY

**Special Certificates May Be Awarded as Supplements
to Degree Programs When Authorized by the University.
This form is filed once certificate criteria are completed.**

Name: _____
Last
First
Middle

USU ID # _____ Semester of Graduation _____

LOCAL Phone _____ Permanent Phone _____

Mailing Address _____
Street
City
State
Zip

Degree Program _____
College
Department

Emphasis _____

Attach a current transcript with gerontology courses highlighted. List all required and elective courses and semester hours of credit needed to complete the certificate requirements:

Sgo gugt:			Sgo gugt:.....Sgo gugt:.....			Sgo gugt:.....Ugo gugt<					
Dept.	Course #	Credit	Dept.	Course #	Credit	Dept.	Cour se #	Credit	Dept.	Cour se #	Credit
Total Credits			Total Credits			Total Credits			Total Credits		

Semester Gerontology Paper to be Completed (Semester/Yr) _____

Current Gerontology GPA _____

I acknowledge my responsibility in completing all graduation requirements as outlined here to be eligible for this certificate.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Certificate Director's Signature _____ Date _____

Dean's Signature _____ Date _____

