WHAT CAN A MINOR OR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GERONTOLOGY ADD TO YOUR COMMUNICATION STUDIES DEGREE?

UNC Charlotte offers an Undergraduate Minor and Graduate Certificate in Gerontology (with an Early Entry option)

WHAT IS GERONTOLOGY?

Gerontology is the study of longevity. Students of gerontology study not only physiological changes that occur with aging, but also social roles, normative expectations, attitudes and beliefs, stereotypes, and policy, health and economic issues which define the aging experience.

HOW DOES GERONTOLOGY COMPLEMENT MY COMMUNICATION STUDIES DEGREE?

Communication in health and aging contexts is a growing specialty in the field of Communication Studies. Communication and information regarding aging issues—with friends, family, providers, and via media and marketing messages—is pervasive and affects all of us, either as patients/consumers, family members, or message providers. It is important to look at the communication-related health and social issues facing people as we transition through middle life, older age, and end of life; and to understand the aging process as it is shaped by several social, cultural, and interpersonal factors. A minor in Gerontology will give Health Communication students insight into how meaning is constructed in life experiences throughout the life course and will enable students to shape their major in a career in this specific context.
WHAT UNC CHARLOTTE FACULTY SPECIALIZE IN THIS AREA AND WHAT ARE THEIR RESEARCH INTERESTS?

Christine S. Davis, Ph.D., Christine.s.davis@uncc.edu.
Family/interpersonal/patient-provider communication in aging, disability, terminal illness contexts.

Erin Basinger, Ph.D., ebasinge@uncc.edu
Health Communication, Interpersonal/Family Communication, Stress and coping.

WHAT ARE SOME CAREER RESOURCES BEYOND UNC Charlotte?

AARP
www.aarp.org
Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education Careers in Aging
www.careersinaging.com/careersinaging/
The Gerontological Society of America Careers in Gerontology
www.geron.org/StudentOrg/careers.htm
Southern Gerontological Society
http://www.wfu.edu/gerontology/sgs/
UNC Institute on Aging
http://www.aging.unc.edu/

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the UNC Charlotte Gerontology Program Contact: Dr. Cynthia Hancock, Director at chancock@uncc.edu

Or Visit the Gerontology Program website: www.gerontology.uncc.edu

© Gerontology Program 2020