WHAT CAN GERONTOLOGY at UNCC ADD TO YOUR COUNSELING DEGREE?

**UNC Charlotte offers an Undergraduate Minor, Graduate Certificate and Master’s Degree in Gerontology**

WHAT IS GERONTOLOGY?

Gerontology is the study of aging and older adults. 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 COUNSELING DEGREE?

The counseling specialization known as gerontological counseling will respond to the needs of the growing group of older adults. Therapeutic outcomes in mental health counseling have been shown to be effective with older adults and these outcomes are equal to those achieved with younger adults. There are specific challenges in working with older adults who are a very diverse population. These presenting issues may occur anytime, but they are more common in the older population: chronic illness, disability, death of loved ones, and prolonged caregiving for family members who have severe cognitive or physical impairment. Effective gerontological counselors have expertise in aging issues, are informed about community resources that are available and are aware that the accumulated knowledge of people & relationships which older adults have amassed can be an asset.
WHAT UNC CHARLOTTE FACULTY SPECIALIZE IN THIS AREA AND WHAT ARE THEIR RESEARCH INTERESTS?

Susan R. Furr, srfurr@uncc.edu. COED 255. Professor, Department Chair, Grief and Loss.

Edward A. Wierzalis, eawierza@uncc.edu. COED 238. Clinical Assistant Professor, Sexual and Intimacy Issues for Aging Gay Men.

WHAT ARE SOME CAREER RESOURCES BEYOND UNCC?

AARP
www.aarp.org
Association 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/
The American Counseling Association
http://www.counseling.org/
Association for Adult Development and Aging
http://www.aadaweb.org/

FOR MORE INFORMATION at UNCC ABOUT

The Gerontology Program:
Dr. Julian Montoro-Rodriguez, Program Director at jmontoro@uncc.edu or 704-687-6166.

The Gerontology Graduate Certificate or MA or Research:
Dr. Mike Turner, Research Coordinator at miturner@uncc.edu or 704-687-0867

The Undergraduate Gerontology minor:
Dr. Cynthia Hancock, Undergraduate & Service-Learning Coordinator at chancock@uncc.edu or 704-687-7807.

Visit the Gerontology Program website: www.gerontology.uncc.edu
© UNC Charlotte Gerontology Program 2018