WHAT CAN GERONTOLOGY at UNCC ADD to YOUR ELEMENTARY EDUCATION 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 ELEMENTARY EDUCATION DEGREE?

By the year 2030 we expect one out of five persons in American Society to be an older adult (aged 65 or older) and the American family is becoming more and more diverse. Today’s younger generation may live in a family that includes both grand-parents and great-grandparents, may have more than two sets of grand-parents, and will bear witness to the opportunities and challenges that multi-generational families may bring to themselves, their parents, and the older generations. In 2005, the American Association of Retired Persons estimated that almost 2.5 million older adults had primary responsibility for a grandchild who lived with them. While close bonds can be created between these grandparents and their grandchildren, these caregivers often face financial, health, social, and psychological stresses. Additionally, older adults represent a wonderful resource within our communities, with 43% serving as volunteers. Therefore, an educator who has formal training in aging and an awareness of the issues that impact older adults will have a greater understanding of the experiences, challenges, and opportunities that an aging society offers to both families and the school system. This understanding is critical to our ability to respond to the needs of our younger generation, as well as the families and communities who may care for them.
WHAT UNC CHARLOTTE FACULTY/STAFF SPECIALIZE IN THIS AREA AND WHAT ARE THEIR RESEARCH INTERESTS?

John A. Gretes, PhD. jgretes@uncc.edu. Adult learning.

Lisa Merriweather, PhD. lmerriwe@uncc.edu. Adult learning with a primary focus on racial inequity and social justice.

WHAT ARE SOME CAREER RESOURCES BEYOND UNCC?

AARP www.aarp.org
Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) 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/
Project MORE education.uncc.edu/more/StartResources/Intergenerational_Gallery.htm
University of Texas Health Science Center http://teachhealthk-12.uthscsa.edu/
Stanford University Curriculum in Ethnogeriatrics http://www.stanford.edu/group/ethnoger/

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:
Dr. Anita Blowers, Graduate Coordinator at anblower@uncc.edu or 704-6875091.

Gerontology Graduate 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.