WHAT CAN GERONTOLOGY at UNCC ADD TO YOUR NURSING 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 NURSING DEGREE?**

Expertise in gerontology will better equip you to care for the patients you are likely to encounter—older adults; since the U.S. is projected to have greater numbers of older adults than ever before in the next thirty years, we know that a growing proportion of the patient population will be older adults. Sadly, studies show that most nursing students prefer not to work with older adults, and many people perceive older adults as fragile, sickly, or dependent. However, this is not the case for most older adults. For this reason, as well as the increasing life expectancies and diversity of the older adult population, nurses with expertise in gerontology are a valuable asset in many health care settings. Specialization in gerontology will not only enhance your skills as a nurse working with older adults, but it will set you apart as unique and place you in an ideal role to serve in leadership and mentoring capacities in order to enhance care of older adults at your agency.
WHAT UNC CHARLOTTE FACULTY SPECIALIZE IN THIS AREA AND WHAT ARE THEIR RESEARCH INTERESTS?

Allison H. Burfield, RN, PhD, aburfiel@uncc.edu. Outcomes research focused on pharma-cotherapeutics/safe medication use, falls prevention, mental health, interdisciplinary care coordination, and health policy.

Maren Coffman, Ph.D., M.Coffman@uncc.edu. Chronic illness, diabetes, health literacy, healthcare access, Latino health.

Susan Kennerly, Ph.D., skenner2@uncc.edu. Occupational culture, pressure ulcer prevention in older adults, leadership and organizational effectiveness, workplace safety and health.

Jane Neese, Ph.D., jbbeese@uncc.edu. Gerontological nursing, medically ill and vulnerable elderly, rural elders and health outcomes of various models of service delivery.

Meredith Troutman-Jordan, Ph.D., meredithtroutman@uncc.edu. Successful aging, psychiatric mental health, health promotion in older adults.

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/

UNC Institute on Aging
http://www.aging.unc.edu/

Hartford Try This Series
http://www.ConsultgeriRN.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:
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.

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