WHAT CAN GERONTOLOGY at UNCC ADD TO YOUR PUBLIC HEALTH 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 PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE?

Gerontology and public health go hand-in-hand. As we age, we encounter many health issues that are related to physiological deterioration of the body, lifestyle behaviors, ageism within the health and medical care system, and social and governmental policies that influence our access to health services. Demographically, older adults are quickly becoming the largest segment of our population; thus is it critical that public health researchers and practitioners understand the issues faced by older adults. In particular, understanding how to prevent the disability that often accompanies aging and/or chronic disease so that we can prolong functional independence and years of healthy life of older adults is a key concern for the public health field.
WHAT UNC CHARLOTTE FACULTY SPECIALIZE IN THIS AREA AND WHAT ARE THEIR RESEARCH INTERESTS?

Sarah B. Laditka, Ph.D., sladitka@uncc.edu. Formal and informal long-term care, healthy life expectancy for older people, public health preparedness for frail and disabled populations, and access to primary health care for people in vulnerable groups.

James N. Laditka, Ph.D. jladitka@uncc.edu. Access to health care for people in vulnerable groups, long-term care, healthy life expectancy, health disparities.

Jan Warren-Findlow, Ph.D., jwarren1@uncc.edu. Chronic disease self-care; older women’s health; hypertension; health disparities in older African Americans; qualitative research methods.

WHAT ARE SOME CAREER RESOURCES BEYOND UNCC?

AARP
www.aarp.org

American Public Health Association (APHA)
http://www.apha.org/about/careers/

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/

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
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