WHAT CAN GERONTOLOGY at UNCC ADD TO YOUR SOCIAL WORK 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 SOCIAL WORK DEGREE?

With the dramatic growth of the aging population, social workers in all practice settings and with all age groups increasingly encounter older adults. Aging brings about physical, emotional, and social changes, challenges, and resilience that affect an older adult’s quality of life. The social work profession has long recognized the need for social workers to gain a greater understanding of the complexities associated with the aging experience and how older adults adapt and respond by drawing upon their strengths and resilience. Social workers who have formal training in aging will be better prepared to provide services that effectively contribute to the well-being of older adults, their families, and their communities.
WHAT UNC CHARLOTTE FACULTY SPECIALIZE IN THIS AREA AND WHAT ARE THEIR RESEARCH INTERESTS

Othelia Lee, Ph.D., Othelia.lee@uncc.edu. Life transitions, coping with visual impairment, diverse populations.
Julian Montoro-Rodriguez, Ph.D., jmontoro@uncc.edu Director of the Gerontology Program.
Amy Jamerson, M.S.W., L.C.SW., ajamerso@uncc.edu Social Work with Older Adults.
Cheryl Waites Spellman, Ph.D., cwaites@uncc.edu
M. Lori Thomas, Ph.D., lorithomas@uncc.edu. Organization and community practice in homelessness, particularly for older adults and those experiencing serious mental illness or co-occurring disorders.

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/
National Association of Social Workers
http://www.nasw.org/PRAC/Standards
Elderweb
http://www.elderweb.com

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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