The MINOR in
GERONTOLOGY

WHAT IS GERONTOLOGY?
Gerontology is the study of the experience and process of aging across the life course. Students of gerontology study not only the physiological and sensory changes that occur with aging, but also the social roles and expectations, stereotypes, and unique social and economic issues that define the life-long aging experience across micro and macro levels.

WHY IS GERONTOLOGY AN EXCELLENT MINOR TO CHOOSE?
Changes in population size and composition have consequences for every aspect of human life. As cohorts move through time, their size and historical experiences make their later years unique in many ways. Whether one is a Baby Boomer, Generation X, Millennial, Generation Z, or part of another cohort, gerontology teaches us about the impact of life course experiences and normal aging processes in later life years. Students minoring in gerontology at UNC Charlotte also complete 100 hours of experiential learning giving them real world experience with older adults and aging services organizations. As an area of study, gerontology offers important insight for anyone who plans a career with older adults, all of us as we age, and as we navigate the demands and opportunities of aging loved ones. The undergraduate gerontology coordinator has information that can help each student combine the gerontology minor with their chosen major in a clear and relevant way.

WHAT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES EXIST?
Persons over age 65 will make up 30% of the American population by 2030. As the number of older persons in our society continues to increase, it will be important for people in every occupation and profession to have a basic understanding of the aging process. It is the goal of the program to provide UNC Charlotte students with this basic understanding. You may be interested in a future career related to gerontology. Projections indicate opportunities in fields as diverse as city planning, administration, management, recreation, counseling, physical therapy, social work, program development, research, nursing home administration, real estate, and geriatric nursing.

HOW DO WE TEACH GERONTOLOGY?
Invariably, the best research, training, and service programs in gerontology develop when professionals from a variety of traditional disciplines are afforded the opportunity to work together, each contributing a unique expertise while benefiting from the expertise of others. The minor in gerontology at UNC Charlotte is built around a core sequence of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary courses taught by professionals from a variety of different academic disciplines. This approach is designed to bring together information from multidisciplinary sources, integrate theoretical and applied concepts in gerontology, and communicate to students the need for a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches in meeting the needs of those moving through the life course.

WHAT ARE THE MINOR REQUIREMENTS?
The minor in gerontology is awarded only to students completing an undergraduate major at UNC Charlotte. A minimum of 18 hours in gerontology courses with a GPA of 2.5 in all gerontology related courses is required. Students must earn a C or better in the 18 credits counted toward the minor. No courses counted toward the minor may be taken pass/fail. Course requirements and options include:

REQUIRED COURSES FOR ALL GERONTOLOGY MINORS
All students must take the following two courses at UNC Charlotte (transfer credit cannot count for these courses).
Together these courses offer 100 hours of experiential learning:
- GRNT/SOCY 2100 (3) Aging and the Lifecourse (SL) (3) 10 Service-learning hours.
- GRNT 3600 (3) Senior Seminar (W) (3). A pre-registration orientation (held the semester prior to taking the course) is required to receive a permit for this class. Only declared minors who have completed a minimum of 12 (preferably 15) gerontology credit hours should attend an orientation. 90 Field Placement hours.

PRIMARY ELECTIVE OPTIONS
Students must select at least two of the following four courses:
- GRNT/PSYC 2124 (3) Psychology of Aging
- GRNT/HLTH 3115 (3) Health and the Aging Process
- GRNT/SOCY 4110 (3) Sociology of Aging
- GRNT 4250 (3) Aging Programs and Services

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SECONDARY ELECTIVE OPTIONS:
Students must complete a total of 18 hours. If two primary electives are completed, then two secondary electives must be completed. If three primary electives are completed then one secondary elective must be completed. If all four primary electives are completed then no secondary electives must be completed.

- GRNT/PSYC/SOCY 3125 Older Worker and Retirement (3)
- GRNT/ANTH 3132 Aging and Culture (3)
- GRNT/SOCY 3267 Sociology of Death, Dying, and Bereavement (3)
- GRNT/SOCY 4134 Families and Aging (3)
- GRNT/SOCY 4150 Older Individual and Society (3)
- GRNT/HLTH/WGST 4260 Women: Middle Age and Beyond (3)
- GRNT 4270 Intergenerational Relationships and Programs (3)
- GRNT 4280 The Experience of Dementia (3)
- GRNT 4353 Environments for Aging (3)
- GRNT/CJUS 4364 Elders and the Criminal Justice System (3)
- GRNT/SOCY 4366 Minorities and Aging (3)
- PHIL 3230 Healthcare Ethics (3)
- POLS 3125 Healthcare Policy (3)
- SOCY 2169 Sociology of Health and Illness (3)
- SOWK 4101 Social Work Practice with Older Adults (3)
- GRNT 3800 Independent Study in Gerontology (1 – 8) *(Total of 3 credits can be counted toward minor)*
- GRNT 4050 Topics in Gerontology (1 – 4) *(Total of 3 credits can be counted toward minor)*

Students should confer with the Undergraduate Gerontology Coordinator as they plan their schedules and are strongly encouraged to select elective courses from outside their major. Because this is designed to be an interdisciplinary minor, no more than three courses from your major area of study may double count for the gerontology minor.

Students who have earned a bachelor’s degree from UNC Charlotte may be readmitted to pursue a minor in gerontology, just as they may be readmitted to pursue a second major. (For further information on readmission, see the admission section of the UNC Charlotte Catalog).

Students who have earned a bachelor's degree from an institution other than UNC Charlotte may not receive a minor in gerontology from UNC Charlotte (unless they earn a second baccalaureate degree from UNC Charlotte). Such students may request a letter from the program and/or a transcript notation which acknowledges completion of courses specified for the minor but indicates that the minor can only be awarded upon completion of the degree.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE?

All of our contact and curricula information can be found on our regularly updated website:

[www.gerontology.uncc.edu](http://www.gerontology.uncc.edu)

On this website you can find the following Gerontology Program resources:

- Program Director Contact Information
- Undergraduate Coordinator Contact Information
- Graduate Coordinator Contact Information
- Gerontology Minor Curriculum
- Early Entry Graduate Certificate Information
- Graduate Certificate Curriculum
- Alumni Profiles
- Career Information
- Gerontology Faculty