

October 20, 2010

Dear Faculty Senators:

The Psychology Division is proposing a new major entitled Gerontology. This interdisciplinary major will prepare students to work in fields that interface with older adults. As the name implies, the proposed major will include coursework in the interdisciplinary field of gerontology. Coursework will draw from the following areas; psychology, health, political science, communications, and business. The major reflects a degree of flexibility allowing students to customize a program that not only provides a solid foundation in gerontology but also allows for course choices that will assist them in preparing for a specific career or future post-graduate education. For example, students could take up to three classes in business (i.e., accounting, marketing, and human resources), which can help them prepare for the many career opportunities that require background and training in gerontology and business.

Program Objectives

Students completing the Gerontology major will:

1. have a greater appreciation for the specific needs of older adults.
2. know about major demographic and epidemiological trends related to older adults.
3. gain knowledge about the cognitive, physical, and social changes associated with older adulthood.
4. develop an interdisciplinary perspective by taking courses in health, political science, or communications.
5. gain knowledge of end-of-life issues
6. have knowledge of the physical, mental and social changes common in older adulthood.
7. develop an understanding of the long-term care and housing industry.

Course of Study

The Gerontology major should be planned with a gerontology adviser. The Gerontology major consists of 56 hours of focused coursework beyond introductory coursework (there are no hidden prerequisites in the required coursework).

Required Courses (36 hours)

PSY 201 General Psychology I (4 credits)
PSY 202 General Psychology II (4 credits)
PSY 301W Introduction to Research Methods (4 credits)
PSY 311 Developmental Psychology (4 credits)
PSY 320 Introduction to Geropsychology (4 credits)
* - GERO 360 Cognitive and Physical Changes in Aging (4 credits)
* - GERO 430 Palliative Care and Chronic Illness (4 credits)
* - GERO 460 Retirement/LTC Housing for the Elderly (4 credits)
* - GERO 370 Aging and Mental Health (4 credits)

Elective Courses (20 hours)

Elective Portion A (select at least two courses)

* - GERO 409 Practicum (up to 4 hours can count toward the major)
* - GERO 440 Health Care Operations
* - GERO 470 Regulatory and Clinical Operations of Long Term Care
* - GERO 480 Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Management
* - PSY 420 Advanced Topics in Geropsychology

Elective Portion B (select at least two courses)

PSY 446 The Psychology of Leadership (4)
PSY 451 Biopsychology (4)
PSY 460 Cognitive Neuroscience (4)
PSY 483 Adulthood and Aging (4)
PSY 484 Death, Dying, and Grief (4)
PSY 423 Interviewing and Appraisal
PSY 445 Introduction to Industrial/Organizational Psychology
* - PSY 439 Positive Psychology
ANTH 395 Medical Anthropology
BA 211 Financial Accounting (4)
BA 310 Principles of Marketing (3)
BA 391 Human Resource Management (3)
HE 227 Community and Public Health (4)
HE 325 Nutrition (4)
HE 375 Epidemiology (4)
HE 411 Health Communication (4)
HE 434W Diseases (4)
HE 485W Bioethics and Public Health (4)
HST 484 Health, Medicine and Gender in Historical Perspective
PS 350 Intro to Public Policy (3)
PS 430 The Aging Society (3)
PS 433 Healthcare Politics and Policy (3)

* - Notes new courses that are being proposed during Fall 2010