

Institute on Aging
School of Community Health
College of Urban and Public Affairs

Post Office Box 751 503-725-3952 tel
Portland, Oregon 97207-0751 503-725-5100 fax
470 Urban Center
506 SW Mill Street www.ioa.pdx.edu
Portland, OR 97201

Dear Prospective Student,

I would like to thank you for your interest in the Gerontology Certificate Program. Since the program began in the fall of 1980, we have been making every attempt to arrange curriculum offerings in such a way that all who are interested will be able to fulfill the requirements for the certificate within two academic years of part-time work.

I have enclosed a certificate application form and an explanation of the program. Formal admission to the program will be required before the certificate can be awarded.

I also would like to point out that you need not be accepted to a regular degree program in order to pursue the certificate. However, you must apply for admission to the University as a graduate student and meet the basic requirements such admission entails.

Thank you for your interest. Should you have any questions, please call 503-725-3952.

Sincerely,

Margaret B. Neal, Ph.D.
Director, Institute on Aging

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Graduate Certificate in Gerontology Program

The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology program provides multidisciplinary training for post-baccalaureate students interested in working with the aged in a variety of settings. The field of gerontology addresses the social issues, problems, policies, and programs that affect the quality of life for our rapidly aging population.

Career Opportunities

As our population ages, more programs are developing that provide services to seniors. Thus, a workforce that has expertise in adult development and aging is increasingly valuable.

Employment possibilities include aging services at the federal, state and county levels of government as well as positions in the non-profit world of health and social services. There is also a need in the supportive housing arena, e.g., assisted living, nursing homes.

Affiliations

The Graduate Certificate in gerontology is an interdisciplinary program centered in the **Institute on Aging**, within the College of Urban and Public Affairs. Courses in gerontology are available from many departments around campus.

Relationship to PSU Graduate Programs

Courses completed for this Graduate Certificate may be applied toward graduate degrees at PSU provided they meet the appropriate standards for use in the degree.

Students in the MSW program can pursue a combined MSW and Graduate Certificate in Gerontology. Application to the Certificate program through IOA is still required. To fulfill the certificate internship requirement, students must register for one credit in PHE504. Internships must be approved by the IOA Director. Students must contact IOA during the term prior to the internship or research project to obtain specific directions and process approval. Registration with approved By-arrangement form only. Students can find course requirements on the School of Social Work website at:

http://www.ssw.pdx.edu/_msw/study_options/msw_gerontology.pdf

Admission Requirements

All students must complete the IOA departmental graduate certificate application, which consists of application form, personal essay, two evaluation letters, and official transcripts for all college credit previously earned by the student. The application packet can be downloaded from the link at the top of this page:

<http://www.pdx.edu/ioa/graduate-certificate-gerontology>

If not already enrolled at PSU, students must apply for admission to the University as a graduate student. Complete the University application for graduate admission found on this page:

http://www.gsr.pdx.edu/ogs_forms.php

Students who are enrolled in a graduate program at PSU and would like to add the certificate need to fill out a GO-19M form. This form must be signed by a member of your degree program department, and then by the director of IOA. The form can be found on the Graduate Studies and Research website at:

<http://www.gsr.pdx.edu/forms/go-19m.pdf>

All PSU Graduate Certificate programs require that an applicant have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and a cumulative GPA of *at least 2.75 in all undergraduate courses*. Applicants with cumulative undergraduate GPAs between 2.50 and 2.74 may be considered for conditional admission only.

The Graduate Certificate consists of a *six-course program*, including a three multidisciplinary core courses, two elective courses, and an internship or an independent research project, all of which comprise a minimum of 19 credits.

Students need not be enrolled in a regular master's or doctoral program to pursue the Graduate Certificate, although students in such programs are eligible to enroll in the **Graduate Certificate Program in Gerontology** in addition to their other graduate work. Course offerings are arranged to let most students fulfill requirements within *two academic years* of part-time study.

Students obtaining the Master of Urban Studies or the Ph.D. in Urban Studies can elect Gerontology as their major or minor field area instead of, or in addition to, obtaining the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology. Students in the Master of Social Work (MSW) program also are able to *simultaneously* obtain the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology. Program requirements for MSW students differ, however. Students in the MSW program should consult with their adviser in the Graduate School of Social Work or with the Institute on Aging Staff.

Course requirements for the Graduate Certificate program:

1. Three required classes:

PHE 556, Health Aspects of Aging

PHE 558/658, Perspectives on Aging, (for **ALL** students, including MSW students)

PSY 562, Psychology of Adult Development and Aging

OR

SOC 569, Sociology of Aging

2. Two electives from the following or other aging-specific courses, as available: (a good rule of thumb in determining if a course is *'aging-specific'* is if *'aging'* or *'elderly'* is in the title)

PHE510, Global Health and Aging Focus on Nicaragua (6) – class meets during winter and Spring terms, with travel to Nicaragua for 16 days in early summer. Additional trip costs apply. **(restricted, IOA Director approval required)**

PHE557/657, National Long Term Care Policy

PHE559/659, Economics of Aging

PHE560/660, Mental Health and Aging

PHE561/661, Cultural Variations in Aging

SP547, Communications and Aging

SW545/645, Advanced Theories of Human Behavior in the Social Environment

SW574, Social Work with Frail Older Adults

SW510, End-of-Life Decision Making

USP585, Housing and Environments for the Elderly

USP564, Political and Administrative Issues in Aging

There may be other approved classes – they will be listed on the Web each quarter at www.upa.pdx.edu/IOA

3. An internship in an aging-services program or an independent research project, normally the last term of certificate work.

Internships and projects must be approved by the IOA Director. Students must contact IOA during the term prior to the internship or research project to obtain specific directions and process approval. Registration with approved By-arrangement form only.

PHE501, Independent Research Project

PHE504, Internship

Education (Include all academic and professional education beyond high school even though not leading to a degree. Omit short periods of less than a semester, quarter or term. Start with the most recent education. For foreign degrees, give U.S. equivalent in proper column.)

- A. Name of Institution, School and/or Department, Location
- B. Field of Study: Month/Year Attended (From/To), Degree Received, Year of Equivalent Study

A. _____

B. _____

A. _____

B. _____

A. _____

B. _____

A. _____

B. _____

Relevant Work Experience (Include self-employment and volunteer; list major positions, starting with most recent)

Name & Location of Employer	From/To	Position Title
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please mail completed application packet to:

**Gerontology Certificate Program
Institute on Aging
Portland State University
PO Box 751
Portland OR 97207-0751**

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PERSONAL EVALUATION FOR ADMISSION

Name of Applicant _____

TO THE EVALUATOR: This student is applying for admission to the Institute on Aging's graduate certificate in gerontology program at Portland State University. Your help in evaluating his/her potential will be most appreciated. Please return this appraisal to:

Institute on Aging
Admission Committee
Portland State University
P O Box 751
Portland OR 97207

Your comments will be used in the evaluation process only, but in accordance with federal law, they will be available to the student as part of his/her file.

1. I know the applicant: very well well only slightly
2. I know the applicant as a student in : lecture seminar laboratory

If you know the applicant other than as a student, please specify: _____

3. Compare the applicant's overall qualifications with:
- a. other students entering graduate programs:
- top 10% top 25% top 50% lower 50%
- b. others you have worked with:
- top 10% top 25% top 50% lower 50%

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If you know the applicant other than as a student, please specify: _____

3. Compare the applicant's overall qualifications with:

c. other students entering graduate programs:

top 10% top 25% top 50% lower 50%

d. others you have worked with:

top 10% top 25% top 50% lower 50%

