

GERONTOLOGY

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THE MINOR/CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN GERONTOLOGY

Christopher Newport University offers a multi-disciplinary minor in gerontology for undergraduates and a certificate program for practitioners in the community. The program is designed to meet the following student goals:

- 1) Provide a body of knowledge about older persons combined with skills obtained from the student's major discipline to prepare for careers in nursing home administration, administrative positions in community aging programs, research and planning, recreation, social work, counseling, adult education, and others.
- 2) Offer a certificate program to practitioners in gerontology-related-fields who wish to extend their knowledge base in gerontology while working in the community. Suggested prerequisite is an associate degree or equivalent. Specific pre-requisites must be met or waived by consent of instructor.
- 3) Serve as a minor for the student who has no career goals in the field but has an interest in gerontology. Any of the courses may be taken without commitment to the entire program.

The program in gerontology requires successful completion of 18 credits of course work, 12 credits of which are core requirements. The additional six credits may be chosen according to the student's interests. Core requirements for the program in gerontology are: BIOL 234, PSYC 340, SOCL 305, and either SOCL 491, SOWK 401, or approved substitute. It is anticipated that courses in the core requirements will be offered in alternate years. The following courses, with course descriptions appearing in appropriate sections throughout the catalog, are electives for the program in gerontology: PHIL 384; SOCL 315; SOWK 260; SOWK 368; and SOCL 492 or SOWK 492. Students wishing to use other courses as gerontology electives must have the advance written approval of the Director of Gerontology. Students using these elective courses for the program in gerontology will be expected to do assignments within the courses to focus on the study of the elderly. Elective courses are not necessarily offered on a regular basis.

THE CURRICULUM IN GERONTOLOGY
BIOL 234. Aging and Health: Biological and Physiological Perspectives (3-3-0)

Prerequisites: BIOL 107-108 or consent of instructor.

Examination of the aging process and consequent changes in human physiology and body systems. Relationship of physiological changes to health and nutritional problems. Survey of major health problems and interventive possibilities.

PSYC 340. Psychology of Adulthood and Aging (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: PSYC 201-202 or PSYC 210, 211 or consent of instructor.

A study of the psychological processes involved in the middle and later years of human development from young adulthood to the end of the life cycle.

SOCL 305. Sociology of Aging (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: SOCL 201G or 205G or junior standing.

Study of the process and effects of aging or ageism. Demographic trends and their implications. Impact of sociocultural factors on physical and psychological functioning. The social environment of older people, including living environments, finances, family, and friends. Effect of retirement. Programs servicing the elderly.

SOCL 491. Practicum in Sociology (3-0-8)

Prerequisites: SOCL 391, 392, and senior standing.

The practicum in sociology consists of 150 hours in an approved community setting. Its purpose is to give the student the opportunity to correlate theory with practice. Written work will include a log and a final paper synthesizing the student's experience. Practicum must be approved by the department before the student registers.