

Gerontology at St. Cloud State University



Consider the Possibilities!

Gerontology at SCSU offers personalized attention and a range of academic and applied opportunities to provide students with an integrated perspective on aging. The programs in Gerontology are designed to provide a knowledge base for students with a wide range of career and personal goals, including but not limited to: public policy and programs; retail consumer markets; health care; social services; banking and business; long term care; transportation and travel; international development; community planning and pursuit of an advanced graduate degree.

Undergraduate Minor in Gerontology (24 credits)

See SCSU Undergraduate Bulletin for requirements: <http://bulletin.stcloudstate.edu/ugb/programs/gero.asp>

The GERO minor is for undergraduates who want to work with an aging population. Students enrolled in the Gerontology minor come from a variety of majors, including but not limited to:

- Nursing
- Community Health
- Social Work
- Business
- Public Health Administration
- Community Development
- Communication Disorders
- Communication Studies
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Political Science
- Pre-Med
- Pre-Law
- Bachelor of Elective Studies

Master of Science — Gerontology

Plan A (Thesis), 34 credits; Plan B, (Starred Paper), 36 credits; Plan C, (Portfolio), 36 credits

See SCSU Graduate Bulletin for requirements: <http://bulletin.stcloudstate.edu/gb/programs/gero.asp>


The Master's degree in Gerontology is for students who have completed a Bachelor's degree and want to further their educational and career opportunities. A Master of Science in Gerontology prepares graduates to assume professional leadership roles in the delivery of service to older people and their support networks, in the planning of services, in the administration of services, and in the training and instruction of older people and service providers.

Graduate Certificate in Gerontology (12 to 15 credits)

See SCSU Graduate Bulletin for requirements: <http://bulletin.stcloudstate.edu/gb/programs/gero.asp#certificate>

For individuals who already have a master's or professional degree or who currently are enrolled in a graduate degree program other than gerontology, a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology is also offered. The certificate recognizes specialized training in aging studies which complements and supplements other graduate degrees. This multidisciplinary program provides knowledge which can be utilized across numerous agencies, institutional settings and professions.

More Ways to Get Involved:

- Sigma Phi Omega  National Academic Honors and Professional Society in Gerontology
- The SCSU Gerontology Club
- Visit our website: <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/gerontology>

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Gerontology Courses at SCSU



The following are some of the Gerontology courses offered at SCSU. Many of the classes include hands-on learning opportunities such as service-learning, site visits, and more! See the on-line schedule for class times.

Introduction to Gerontology (GERO 208) Offered **Fall and Spring**, this course introduces the interdisciplinary study of human aging and provides a view of the world's rapidly aging population. The processes of aging affect each of us on a number of different levels and in a variety of ways – including biologically, psychologically and socially. **** Meets Liberal Education Goal Area 5 & Diversity Requirements ****

Aging & Diversity (GERO 405/505) An upper division/graduate course offered each **Fall** that explores the intersection of factors such as gender, race, ethnicity, culture, class, sexual orientation, geographic location, physical ability (and more) with aging. All of these "factors" are components of who we are, who we will be, and the experiences we will we have as aging adults. **** Meets Liberal Education Goal Area 5 & Diversity Req ****

Aging Policies & Programs (GERO 411/511) An upper division/graduate course offered each **Fall** that examines the range and variety of services and programs for the older population, especially those supported and/or funded under the policy, administrative, fiscal, or legislative control of federal, state, and local governments.

Women & Aging (GERO 415/515) An upper division/graduate course offered each **Spring** that explores the social and personal dynamics of aging as experienced by women in United States culture and globally. The course draws on a variety of sources including fiction, popular media, personal narratives and both qualitative and quantitative research. Areas addressed include issues of health, work/retirement, sexuality, kinship, media representation and identity. **** Meets Liberal Education Goal Area 5 & Diversity Requirements ****

Aging & Dementia (GERO 425/525) An upper division undergrad/ grad course offered each **Fall** examining dementia in older persons from three inter-related perspectives, including the nature, causes and symptoms of dementia in later life; the impact dementia in later life has on the family; and the individual experience of dementia in later life. Strategies of coping with a dementing illness in later life are addressed.

Elder Law (GERO 430/530) An upper division undergrad/grad course which provides an introduction and overview of the issues facing Elder Law attorneys and their clients. Overview of the issues facing elder law attorneys and their clients. Elder rights and public policy and the role of society will be examined.

Aging & Housing Options (GERO 435/535) An upper division undergrad/grad course offered each **Spring** examining issues of housing in later life in regard to the housing needs of older persons and the variety of housing options available to them. Attention is placed on issues of aging in place, physical design, and innovative housing options, as well as on working with older persons in a variety of housing settings.

Seminar (Special Topics) (GERO 440/540) An upper division undergrad/ grad seminar offering a variety of timely topics (e.g., Mental Health & Wellness, Spirituality & Aging, Ethics). Course may be repeated with a different topic if desired.

Gerontology Internship & Professional Seminar (GERO 444/644) Available each **Fall and Spring**, students complete an internship experience at a community site. The concurrent seminar helps students reflect on their "real world" internship experience and its relationship to prior gerontology course work, professionalism, and ethics.

Health & Aging (GERO 465/565) Upper division undergrad/grad course offered each **Spring** which examines the physiological and cognitive processes of human aging, with a consideration of environmental, societal, and lifestyle factors which promote healthy aging. Topics include theories of aging; diet & nutrition; exercise; physiological & cognitive processes of aging; health enhancement; & sexuality in later life

Global Aging (GERO 470/570) An upper division undergrad /grad course exploring aging as a global phenomena (e.g., demographic trends, historical influences and the lived experience). The intersection of factors such as gender, ethnicity, geography, and class are examined.

Advanced Policy Issues in Gerontology (GERO 620) Offered each **Spring**, this graduate course provides students with an opportunity to obtain an analytical perspective on historical and emergent trends in the United States and globally with regard to policy related to older adults, aging, and community.

Aging & Community: Current Issues in Social Gerontology, Culture & Diversity (GERO 630) Offered each **Fall**, this graduate course explores the diverse experience of human aging in the U.S. and globally, with a primary focus on the interpersonal and instrumental concerns related to aging within different communities.

Research Methods and Design in Gerontology (Gero 650) This graduate course offered each **Fall** focuses on the fundamentals of research methods and design (qualitative, quantitative and mixed) for gerontology. Students explore a variety of methods and discover which method/design works best for their research interests.