GERONTOLOGY, PHD

Department of Gerontology, College of Public Affairs & Community Service

Vision Statement
Our program provides interdisciplinary training, preparing students to be leaders in the field of gerontology. Due to the multidisciplinary nature of the field, our students have much flexibility as we create individualized programs tailored to each student’s research and substantive interests to ensure that their training has enough breadth and depth. Our graduates acquire knowledge through various approaches including symposia, formal classes, directed studies, research projects and workshops. All students develop abilities to understand, analyze and evaluate the challenges and opportunities of an aging population. Finally, through training by our multidisciplinary faculty, students strengthen their research and writing skills to produce quality research suitable for peer-reviewed publication and presentation at national conferences.

Program Contact Information
Julie Blaskewicz Boron, PhD, Doctoral Program Chair (DPC)  
210N College of Public Affairs & Community Service (CPACS)  
402.554.3391  
jboron@unomaha.edu


Admissions
Application Deadlines (Fall 2021)
• Fall: January 15 (Priority deadline if interested in scholarship or graduate assistantship); Applications accepted through April 15

Program-Specific Admissions Requirements
• Graduate Record Exam (GRE)  
• Resume  
• Three academic letters of recommendation  
• Statement of Purpose describing your prior education, relevant professional experience, career goals, and the specific relationship of the PhD degree to the achievement of those goals. If there are particular faculty you are interested in working with, or areas of study that you would like to pursue please include in your statement. If you are interested in a graduate assistantship, please indicate your interest and the skills you have to assist the faculty.  
• Writing Sample: this may be a master’s or honors thesis, a published article, or any similar manuscript written in a scholarly style.  
• Applicants are required to have a command of oral and written English. Those who do not hold a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from the United States, OR a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from a predetermined country on the waiver list, must meet the minimum language proficiency score requirement in order to be considered for admission.
  • A minimum TOEFL score of 550 paper-based; 80 internet-based; 53 PTE, or 6.5 IELTS is required for this program.  
• International applicants who have completed any undergraduate or graduate coursework at international higher education institution(s), for the purpose of having your application reviewed by the Department of Gerontology, you may submit a copy of your unofficial transcripts, in addition to all other application materials. Should the department wish to make a recommendation for admission, you will be required to have a course-by-course transcript evaluation completed by WES, ECE, or Educational Perspectives prior to your admission being formally reviewed and processed by the Office of Graduate Studies.

Degree Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Required Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>GERO 8800</td>
<td>GRADUATE SEMINAR IN THE AGING BRAIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>or GERO 8056</td>
<td>ADVANCED BIOLOGY OF AGING</td>
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<td>GERO 8500</td>
<td>POLITICS IN AGING</td>
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<td>GERO 8730</td>
<td>DYING, DEATH &amp; GRIEVING</td>
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<td>GERO 9110</td>
<td>APPLIED SOCIAL GERONTOLOGY</td>
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<td>GERO 9460</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN AGING AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>GERO 9020</td>
<td>GRADUATE SEMINAR IN STATISTICAL APPLICATIONS</td>
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Methodology/Statistics Courses 6
Electives 49
Exit Requirements 2 20
Total Credits 93

1 Students may take either GERO 8800 or 8056; both courses are not required.
2 Students may begin work on the dissertation after successful completion of the comprehensive examination. The dissertation topic must be approved by the student’s dissertation committee, which consists of a chair and three other members. One Committee member must be a faculty member from outside the Department of Gerontology. The dissertation topic, prospectus, and the dissertation all require the approval of the dissertation committee. A doctoral student will be required to take at least one hour of GERO 9990 Dissertation each fall and spring semester while working toward the completion of the dissertation. A minimum of 20 credit hours of GERO 9990 is required for all doctoral students.

Comprehensive Examination and Admission to Candidacy
When all or most of the coursework is completed on the plan of study, you must pass a written comprehensive examination. Once these exams are passed the supervisory committee will submit the necessary Application for Candidacy Form for approval by the Office of Graduate Studies.