GERONTOLOGY

**Mission:**
As the primary provider of gerontological education and research in the state of Nebraska, the mission of the Gerontology department is to advance the study of aging by educating future, post-secondary instructors, researchers and practitioners in a manner that will prepare them to address the challenges and opportunities of an aging population in areas such as program planning, evaluation and effective service delivery.

**Accreditation Information**
**Program Contact Information**
Department of Gerontology
211 CPACS
402.554.2272
unogero@unomaha.edu

**Department Website** ([http://www.unomaha.edu/gero](http://www.unomaha.edu/gero))


**General Information**
**Overview of Degree Programs**

**Bachelor of Science in Gerontology**
The Bachelor of Science in Gerontology requires completion of 120 credit hours with a cumulative GPA of 2.0. Admission into the program requires a 2.50 GPA.

**General Education**
All students complete the UNO General Education requirements.

**Admission Requirements**
All undergraduate Gerontology programs require a 2.50 GPA to be admitted. Students should consult with the academic advisors on the best program to fit their needs. To set up an appointment, students should contact the academic advisor directly.

**Maximum/Minimum Credits**
- B.S. in Gerontology – 120 credits
- Certificate in Gerontology – 18 credits (15 credits of coursework, 3 credits of practicum)
- Minor in Gerontology – 18 credits

**Residency Requirement**
- B.S. in Gerontology:
  - 30 out of the last 36 credit hours must be taken at UNO or UNL.
  - 21 hours of Gerontology Core and Gerontology Electives must be taken at UNO or UNL.

**Transfer Credit Policy**
- All Programs:
  - Transfer courses from other institutions must be a “C-” or higher.
  - Transfer coursework will only be accepted from regionally accredited institutions.

**B.S. in Gerontology:**
- Up to 64 credits can be applied from regionally accredited two-year institutions.

- Up to 12 credits of military training can be applied to the degree.

**Unacceptable Credits**
Gerontology coursework from UNO, UNL and other institutions that is over 10 years old will be reviewed on an individual basis. Depending on current course content and updated research, older courses may not be applicable to the program.

Credit from technical programs such as Certificate Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Medical Assistant (MA) do not apply to Gerontology programs. Clinical hours from Nursing programs (RN, BSN & LPN) do not apply. Students with these types of transfer credit should consider the Gerontology concentration in the Division of Continuing Studies as an alternative.

**Dean’s List**
See University and College policies

**Honors**
See University and College policies

**Quality of Work**
**All Programs:**
- A 2.50 GPA is required for admission to any program.

**B.S. in Gerontology:**
- All Gerontology coursework must be completed with a “C-” or higher.
- CR/NC is not accepted.
- Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA to be in good academic standing with the University.

**Certificate in Gerontology:**
- All Gerontology courses must be completed with a “C” (2.0 GPA) average. CR/NC is not accepted.

**Minor in Gerontology:**
- All Gerontology courses must be completed with a “C” (2.0 GPA) average. CR/NC is not accepted.

**Completion of Incomplete Grade**
By the end of the following semester.

**Repeating Courses**
Allowed with no limit.

**Grade Appeal Policy**
See College policy.

**Probation/Suspension**
See University policy.

**Academic Amnesty**
N/A

**Academic Advising**
Academic advising is provided for all students. To contact an advisor, visit CPACS 210A, email aselden@unomaha.edu or call 402.554.2114.

**Senior Check**
N/A

**Application for Degree**
Must apply online through Registrar’s office.
Administration of the Program
The Bachelor of Science is available on the UNO campus only. The minor is available on the UNL and UNO campuses.

The UNO Department of Gerontology administers the Certificate in Gerontology program for all campuses of the University of Nebraska under an agreement approved by the Board of Regents in 1977. Students at UNL, UNO, UNK, and UNMC are thus able to earn the certificate as part of their academic work at the University of Nebraska.

In addition to undergraduate and graduate courses, the Department of Gerontology conducts research, community service and provides educational programming for the community.

Degrees Offered
- Gerontology, Bachelor of Science

Double Major or Double Degree in Gerontology
Due to the multidisciplinary nature of Gerontology, a double major or double degree may be applicable to many programs. Admission into the program requires a 2.50 GPA. A double major requires 42 credit hours.

Double Degree in Gerontology
Students must complete all general education, college requirements and major requirements for two programs with a minimum of 150 credit hours. Students will receive two diplomas and must meet the University Double Degree requirements outlined in the catalog.

Double Major in Gerontology
Students will earn one diploma and will complete all general education, college requirements and major requirements for one program, while completing only Gerontology major coursework for their second major.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GER 2000</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO GERONTOLOGY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GER 3000</td>
<td>COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR OLDER ADULTS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER 3070</td>
<td>DEATH AND DYING</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GER 3500</td>
<td>BIOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES OF AGING</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GER 4460</td>
<td>PSYCHOLOGY OF ADULT DEVELOPMENT AND AGING</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GER 4470</td>
<td>MENTAL HEALTH &amp; AGING</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GER 4550</td>
<td>HEALTH ASPECTS OF AGING</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GER 4690</td>
<td>WORKING WITH MINORITY ELDERLY</td>
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Gerontology Electives
Select an additional 9 credit hours of Gerontology coursework, based on interests and career objectives.

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>GERO 4940</td>
<td>PRACTICUM</td>
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Statistics
Each student must complete three credit hour course in basic statistics. Acceptable courses include statistics courses include:

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<tr>
<td>MATH 1530</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO APPLIED PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 3000</td>
<td>STATISTICAL METHODS I</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 2130</td>
<td>SOCIAL STATISTICS</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA/CRCJ</td>
<td>APPLIED STATISTICS AND DATA PROCESSING IN PUBLIC SECTOR</td>
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Certificates Offered
- Gerontology Certificate

Minors Offered
- Gerontology Minor

Research Methods
Each student must complete three credit hour course in basic research methods. Acceptable courses include:

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<tr>
<td>CRCJ 2510</td>
<td>RESEARCH METHODS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 3510</td>
<td>RESEARCH METHODS</td>
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Area of Concentration or Minor
Select an "Area of Concentration or Minor" (see below). 18

Total Credits: 60

1 Each course must be completed with a “C” or higher. No CR/NC can be applied.
2 Course must be completed with a “C” or higher. No CR/NC can be applied.
3 Pre-requisite: 9 credit hours in Gerontology, 2.50 GPA
4 To encourage important real-world experience before graduation, all students complete 156 hours in a practicum site of their choice.

Minors Offered
- Gerontology Minor

Certificates Offered
- Gerontology Certificate

GERO 1070 SURVEY OF AGING & DYING (3 credits)
A survey of important concepts relating to later maturity and the end of life. This course will serve as an elective for students who do not intend to specialize in gerontology, but who wish to have some perspective on development in late life and issues relating to death and dying.

GERO 2000 INTRODUCTION TO GERONTOLOGY (3 credits)
An introduction to social gerontology and human development in later life; emphasis is on important elements of aging, such as socialization, family interaction, retirement, physical and psychological aging, and perceptions of older persons in contemporary society.

GERO 3000 COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR OLDER ADULTS (3 credits)
This course is designed to introduce the student to community resources for older adults, to examine the impact of the efforts on older adults at the national, state and local levels.

GERO 3070 DEATH AND DYING (3 credits)
An interdisciplinary survey of literature in the field of thanatology, with an emphasis on working with the older patient and his or her family. (Cross-listed with HED 3070).
GERO 3500 BIOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES OF AGING (3 credits)
The Biological Bases of Aging Course provides a survey of the primary topics in the biology of aging field for undergraduate students. This a required course for the Gerontology major. By the end of the course, students will understand major theories, biological methods, and seminal research studies in the biology of aging field. Furthermore, students will learn how to critically analyze and interpret primary research about biological aging. This course provides preparation for students considering graduate school in gerontology or biology, geriatric nursing and social work, geriatric medicine, neuroscience, psychology, and exercise science. (Cross-listed with BIOL 3500, NEUR 3500)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Sophomore/Junior/Senior Standing. Not open to non-degree graduate students.

GERO 4100 EDUCATIONAL GERONTOLOGY (3 credits)
An introduction to the field of education for and about the aging. The institutions and processes of education will be analyzed to determine their relationships and value to persons who are now old and those who are aging. (Cross-listed with GERO 8356).

GERO 4200 RECREATION FOR THE AGING (3 credits)
Role of leisure services as related to understanding and working with elders. Emphasis on recreation programming as a mode of intervention. Analysis and study of the phases of aging, with reference to psychomotor, affective, and cognitive changes; introduction to the theories of aging and how they relate to the lifestyle of this population; recreational therapy intervention, activity adaptation and program design; leisure education and issues and trends. (Cross-listed with GERO 8426, RLS 4420, RLS 8426).

GERO 4300 ISSUES IN AGING (3 credits)
This course is intended for students in gerontology and other fields who are interested in a humanistic approach to understanding significant issues which affect the lives of older people. (Cross-listed with GERO 8356).

GERO 4420 PSYCHOLOGY OF ADULT DEVELOPMENT AND AGING (3 credits)
The focus of this course is on the major social and psychological changes that occur as a function of aging. Both normal and abnormal patterns of developmental change are examined, along with their implications for behavior. (Cross-listed with PSYC 4460, GERO 8466).
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Junior or senior.

GERO 4470 MENTAL HEALTH & AGING (3 credits)
The goal of this course is to survey the mental health needs of older adults. Consideration is given to identifying both positive mental health and pathological conditions. Treatment interventions effective with older adults and their families are also discussed. (Cross-listed with GERO 8476, PSYC 4470, PSYC 8476).
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Junior or senior.

GERO 4480 COMPAREATIVE GERONTOLOGY (3 credits)
The study of aging around the world by a comparative method in a cross-cultural and cross-national framework. An explanation of some practical experiences and developments in Europe, Asia and Africa will be examined. (Cross-listed with GERO 8486).

GERO 4500 LEGAL ASPECTS OF AGING (3 credits)
Consideration of the legal concerns which are likely to arise as people age. Includes introduction to the American legal system and emphasis on underlying legal concepts and issues of special importance to older persons. (Cross-listed with GERO 8506).

GERO 4510 LONG-TERM CARE ADMINISTRATION (3 credits)
An investigation of the broad range of policy issues, theoretical concerns and practical management strategies influencing the design, organization and delivery of long-term care services. (Cross-listed with GERO 8516, PA 4510, PA 8516).

GERO 4520 SENIOR HOUSING (3 credits)
The senior housing course is designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the various housing options available to older adults including aging in place to hospice. At the end of the course students will have a working knowledge of the needs of older adults and how this is used in making decisions about housing. (Cross-listed with GERO 8526).
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Junior/Senior Standing.

GERO 4550 HEALTH ASPECTS OF AGING (3 credits)
This course emphasizes health promotion for older adults. Special health needs of older Americans are compared and contrasted with health needs for other age groups. Prevention or delaying of chronic diseases and disorders are emphasized. (Cross-listed with GERO 8556, HED 4550, HED 8556, WGST 4550).

GERO 4560 NUTRITION AND AGING (3 credits)
The goal of this course is to provide an understanding of the relationship between nutrition and successful or usual aging. This course will review the basics of good nutrition and relate them to the usual food intake of older adults. It will identify the impact of poor nutrition. This course will also look at the role nutrition plays in various disease processes that are associated with aging. It will provide information about support services that are available to assure good nutrition into old age for those living independently. (Cross-listed with GERO 8566).
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Junior Standing.

GERO 4590 DISORDERS OF COMMUNICATION IN OLDER ADULTS (3 credits)
This course is designed to familiarize the student with the identification and symptomatology, basic assessment and intervention strategies associated with disorders of communication affecting older adults and geriatric patients. It is beneficial to students majoring in gerontology or speech pathology, as an elective course, or as a professional enrichment course for persons working in these or related fields. Graduate: Students are assigned contacts with and written reports of contacts with an older adult who manifests a disorder of communication. (Cross-listed with GERO 8596).

GERO 4700 PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY (3 credits)
This course is provided to give the student an historical overview of programs for the elderly; examine the national policy process as it relates to the older American; and review the principles and practices relative to the existing national programs for the aged. (Cross-listed with GERO 8676, PA 8676).
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Junior or senior. Not open to non-degree graduate students.

GERO 4700 WORKING WITH MINORITY ELDERLY (3 credits)
This course is designed to provide the student with knowledge of the differing status, attitudes and experiences of the elderly within minority groups. This course examines various service systems and practice models in terms of their relevance and effectiveness in meeting needs of the minority elderly. (Cross-listed with GERO 8696, SOWK 4040, SOWK 8046).

GERO 4720 BABY BOOMERS AND THE 21ST CENTURY (3 credits)
Marketing decisions and strategies apply to all businesses and are influenced by the target market. The economic realities and the character of America will change due to shifting demographics of baby boomers. Businesses that understand the power of the baby boomers will succeed; failure to understand that power may lead to economic consequences. Students from many disciplines will benefit from this cross-referenced course blending the realities of gerontology with the predictions of baby boomer behavior and the resulting impact to all businesses. (Cross-listed with GERO 8726).
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Junior, Senior or Graduate Level Standing.
GERO 4750  MID-LIFE, CAREER CHANGE, PRERETIREMENT PLANNING (3 credits)
This course is designed to involve candidates in the exploration of the developmental tasks of mid-life, myths and realities related to career change as well as the implication of preretirement planning. Factual information, as well as model examination and evaluation are presented to aid the candidate in becoming better equipped to understand some of the forces which affect the well-being of middle aged persons as they prepare for the later years. (Cross-listed with COUN 8756, GERO 8756).
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Junior Standing, permission of instructor.
Not open to non-degree graduate students.

GERO 4850  HOSPICE & OTHER SERVICES FOR THE DYING PATIENT/ FAMILY (3 credits)
This course examines the hospice concept and other related services available in the community. The student will learn that hospice is an alternative to the traditional medical model. (Cross-listed with GERO 8856, SOWK 4850, SOWK 8856.)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Admission to BSSW or permission of the school

GERO 4920  SPECIAL STUDIES IN GERONTOLOGY (1-3 credits)
Special studies designed around the interests and needs of the individual student in such areas as the psychology, sociology, economics or politics of aging, as well as operation of various service systems. The studies may be either a literature review project or a field project in which experience is gained in the community identifying and analyzing needs and services related to older people.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Six hours in gerontology or permission.

GERO 4940  PRACTICUM (3 credits)
This course provides the opportunity to students to share field experiences; to obtain guidance concerning various relationships with agency, staff and clients; and to develop a broadly based perspective of the field of aging.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Nine hours in gerontology and permission. Students must be enrolled in the GERO program and have a minimum GPA of 2.5. Not open to non-degree graduate students.

GERO 4970  SENIOR HONORS PROJECT/THESIS (3-6 credits)
An independent research project supervised by department/school faculty. The senior honors project must be approved by the CPACS Honors Coordinator.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Senior in Honors Program.

GERO 4980  COUNSELING SKILLS IN GERONTOLOGY (3 credits)
This course is intended to help develop basic counseling skills for application in gerontology. (Cross-listed with COUN 8986, GERO 8986).
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Not open to non-degree graduate students.