

Certificate in Gerontology Undergraduate Program of Study

Certificate Requirements

- This certificate requires completion of four aging-related courses, including one required (SOW: 4645: Gerontological Social Work), equaling 12 credit hours.
- Students must take one course outside of social work.
- No transfer credit or substitutions are permitted.
- ALL courses must be completed with a grade of 'B' or higher.
- Capstone Assignment: Before the completion of the program of studies and service component, each Certificate recipient will have written a capstone assignment consisting of a minimum of ten page paper focusing on one specific theory related to aging and a practical application of that theory related to the service component. Thus, the purpose of the capstone paper is to integrate classroom knowledge. The Certificate Director is responsible for reviewing the capstone assignment for adequacy in meeting this requirement prior to informing the student and social work office of the student's completion.
- All coursework must be completed within four years from the time of initial enrollment.
- In addition to completing the required 12 semester credits of coursework, all students must successfully complete 40 hours or more of paid or volunteer experience that focuses on working with older persons. Social Work students will do this by successfully completing a gerontological field placement arranged through the College of Social Work Office of Field Education. Non-Social Work students may meet this requirement through SOW 1054 - Human Service Experience, or other arrangement approved by the Chair of the Certificate.

Course Description for SOW 4645

SOW 4645 - Gerontological Social Work introduces students to the field of social gerontology and gerontological social work. The class provides an overview of a variety of topics such as the demography of aging and the physical, cognitive, and psychosocial aspects of aging. The course also covers health care and social policies that impact older persons and caregivers, along with the aging network of services. How forms of oppression such as ageism, sexism, racism, ablebodyism, beautyism, and homophobia impact our work with older people is discussed, along with how to promote dignity, selfdetermination, and social and economic justice for older persons. The role of both informal and formal support networks is stressed as students learn to comprehensively assess older clients and devise intervention and evaluation plans. (In the event that this course is not offered in a given semester, a directed independent study can be substituted upon prior approval of the Chair of the Certificate Program and under direction of an FSU faculty member.)

Other Approved Courses.

Students should select three additional courses (9 semester hours) from the approved list below. At least one course must be from a discipline outside of social work. Other coursework may be approved as appropriate.

DEP 4404: Psychology of Aging

SOW 4602: Social Work in Healthcare Settings

SOW 4647: Physical Aspects of Aging

SYA 4930: Aging and the Life Course

SYA 4930: Sociology of Successful Aging

SYP 3730: Aging and the Life Course

SYP 4764: Aging Policy and Services

DIS: Directed Individual Studies (course number by department).

***NOTE: As course offering change frequently, these courses may not be offered. In addition, new courses may be added at the discretion of the Director. If you identify a course that seems appropriate, but is not contained in this list, contact the Director for approval.*

Admission Requirements

Degree Seeking Students

To be considered for this program, applicants must have:

1. Been admitted to the University
2. Completed the Certificate application packet
3. A cumulative minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 in the last 30 hours of coursework
4. Evidence of paid social services work or volunteer experience with older adults. (May be waived at the discretion of the Certificate Chair).

<http://csw.fsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/gerontology-undergraduate-students.pdf>

NOTE: Undergraduates not in the Social Work major can earn the certificate by taking 4 aging classes and one of those has to be our SOW 4645 class, so automatically for non-majors that would be the "outside" class. Since there aren't many approved classes on our flyer, the student should individually request permission for other classes to count toward the certificate, and to consider a Directed Individual Study (DIS) with an instructor who can teach about aging topics. They can gain the experience needed in ways other than a social work internship. (see Linda Vinton's 3/23/2016 email)