

Certificate in Gerontology Graduate Program of Study

This certificate requires completion of four courses, including one required (SOW: 5646 - 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. All coursework must be completed within four years from the time of initial enrollment.

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.

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 Certificate Chair.

Course Description for SOW 5646

SOW 5646 - 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.

This course serves as the capstone course for the Certificate.

Students 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.

ADE 5193: Education and Training in Gerontology
MHS 6938: Special Topics in Counseling Psychology
NGR 5255: Dynamics of Aging
PSY 6919r: Seminar in Current# Research Topics
SOW 5603: Social Work in Healthcare Settings
SOW 5648: Physical Aspects of Aging
SOW 5745: Loss and Bereavement
SYP 5733: Social Psychology of Aging
SYP 5735: Sociology of Aging
SYA 6933: Health Care Regulation
SYA 6933: Aging and the Life Course
SYA 6933: Sociology of Successful Aging
SYA 5136: Lifecourse Epidemiology
SYO 5416: Stress and Mental Health
SYP 5737: The Dynamics of Aging and Social Change
SYP 5738: Aging Policies 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

Non-Degree Seeking Students

To be considered for this program, applicants must have:

1. Admitted to the university as a non-degree seeking student
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).

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).