

Department of Gerontology

Major in Gerontology

In order to complete a Major in Gerontology, students must complete a minimum of 39 credit hours of gerontology courses. These include the following introductory requirements (6 credit hours):

GERO-1013. Introduction to Gerontology I

GERO-1023. Introduction to Gerontology II

In addition, students must complete the following core courses (18 credit hours):

GERO/PSYC-2673. Adult Development and Aging

GERO-2113/SOCI 2523. Sociology of Aging

GERO-3023. Aging and Health

GERO-4013. Seminar in Gerontology

GERO-4023. Advanced Seminar in Gerontology

GERO-3053. Qualitative Research Methods

Finally, students are required to complete 15 credit hours of the following electives:

GERO-2273. Death and Dying

GERO-3033. Aging and Spirituality

GERO-3043. Recreation, Leisure and Aging

GERO-3063. Aging and Biography

GERO-3073. Narrative Gerontology

GERO-3093. Images of Aging in Film

GERO-3103. Special Topics

GERO-3123. Counseling Older Adults

GERO-3213. Older Adults as Learners

GERO-3223. Family Ties and Aging

GERO-3233. Aging and Tai Chi: Theory, Research, and Practice

GERO-3673. Advanced Studies in Adult Development

GERO-3743. Critical Approaches to Nursing Homes

GERO-4003. Mental Health and Aging

GERO-4033. Independent Study

GERO-4036. Independent Study

Minor in Gerontology

Students wishing to pursue a Minor in Gerontology must complete 18 credit hours, composed of any courses which they have the required prerequisites.

Subject to the approval of the Chair and the University registrar, students may be able to substitute other courses at St. Thomas University or the University of Nebraska for the electives listed above.

Gerontology is a multidisciplinary field that studies the process of aging across the lifespan. Gerontologists draw on research from a variety of fields that include anthropology, economics, philosophy, physiology, psychology, and sociology, among others. The courses listed below are concerned with issues that concern older persons themselves and range from

GERO 3023. Aging and Health

Various aspects of aging and health are addressed in this course. Topics considered include: theories of biological aging; normal vs. pathological physical changes that accompany the aging process; various chronic conditions that affect quality of life in later life; the implications of physical aging for medication use and nutritional status among older adults; and the

GERO 3673. Advanced Studies in Adult Development

This course is an in-depth study of the markers and challenges that occur during middle to late adulthood. Topics of study include: menopause, retirement, relocation, loss of spouse, caring for an ailing parent or spouse as well as pathological changes such as depression, substance abuse, terminal illness and dementia. Emphasis is placed on changes in response to these influences and on the individual's coping strategies. Prerequisite: GERO 2673 or PSYC 2673

GERO-3743. Critical Approaches to Nursing Homes

This seminar course will examine the phenomenon of nursing homes from an ethnographic and critical point of view and will include both sociological and anthropological perspectives.

GERO-4036. Independent Study

A course of independent study, under supervision of the Chair in Gerontology, which affords the student the opportunity to pursue an in-depth study of an area of interest through special reading or research projects. Arrangements may be made by agreement with members of the staff, and approval of the Chair. Prerequisite: GERO 1013 + 1023.

NOTE: Not available for credit. See the Department of Gerontology website for more information.