

AGING STUDIES *College of Social & Behavioral Sciences and Social Work*

Center for Studies in Aging
Maria C. Hernandez-Peck, Director

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Minor

Faculty:

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UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The Center for Studies in Aging, administratively located within the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences and Social Work, serves as the coordinating entity for the university's multidisciplinary aging studies minor. This program draws upon the university's existing resources in such fields as social work, sociology, biology, psychology, nursing, nutrition and dietetics, health sciences, recreation and leisure services, physical education, economics and various ethnic studies programs. The program is designed to prepare students for careers in the development, management and provision of services to older persons. Such careers include: management of public and private agencies serving older persons, administration of residential care facilities for the elderly and the management and direction of social, leisure and health services to older persons.

Required courses in the following program of study may have prerequisites. Reference the course description section for clarification.

Aging Studies Courses

Terms offered: check with the department or EagleNET.

AGST 310 Multidisciplinary Studies in Aging (5)

Required of all students in the minor, this course draws upon a number of disciplines and fields (primarily biology, psychology, social work, sociology, economics, nutrition and dietetics and ethnic perspectives) to provide a balanced view of both normal and problem aspects of aging. Presents theoretical issues and aspects of aging as well as programs, services and issues involved in working with older persons.

AGST 410 Minority Perspectives in Aging (3)

Prerequisite: AGST 310 or special permission of the instructor. Required of all students in the minor, this course is oriented toward a critical examination of the variations in aging experiences of minority elderly in the United States. Its focus is on the most salient themes, orientations and dimensions of the problems and processes of aging in the broader cultural tradition within each ethnic minority group. Particular attention paid to biological, material and historical bases of such dimensions, regional variations among populations and the effects of such past events as conquest and colonialism.

AGST 455 Social Policy and Programs in Aging (3)

Prerequisite: AGST 310 or permission of the instructor. Social welfare policies and programs serving the aging are examined, past and present, in terms of their overall impact on the aged and on society at large. The needs and gaps in services to the aged are evaluated, as well as the adequacy with which these services are delivered and the response of programs and services to the changing needs of the aged. (Cross-listed SOWK 455)

AGST 456 The Older Woman (3)

Prerequisite: AGST 310 or permission of the instructor. Older women's needs, problems and potential for change are considered. The social, economic and health problems confronting older women are also examined and policy and program alternatives to improve their lives will be explored. (Cross-listed SOWK 456)

AGST 457 Clinical Assessment in Aging (3)

Prerequisite: AGST 310 or permission of the instructor. An introduction to the assessment skills required for professional social work practice in mental health and other clinical settings dealing with the elderly. The course is intended for social work practitioners and graduate students. Others may be considered for admission on an individual basis with instructor's permission. (Cross-listed SOWK 457)

AGST 458 Perspectives on Death and Dying (4)

This course is designed to assist students in the helping professions who wish to work with the terminally ill. Focus will be on an increased ability to deal with one's own mortality; the development of beginning skills for working with the terminally ill and their families; an understanding of the complex social system which surrounds death in modern America; as well as the current moral, ethical and philosophical issues in the field. (Cross-listed SOWK 458)

MINOR

AGING STUDIES (INTERDISCIPLINARY) MINOR (20-30 CREDITS)

Required Courses (14-16 credits)

AGST 310 Multidisciplinary Studies in Aging (5)
AGST 410 Minority Perspectives in Aging (3)

Select two of the following courses (6-9 credits)

BIOL 343 Biology of Aging (3)
ECON 498 Economics of Aging (3)
SOWK 455 Social Policy and Programs in Aging (3)

Electives (6-9 credits)

Select from the following list of courses or courses from the above list not already taken:

SOWK 456 The Older Woman (3)
SOWK 457 Clinical Assessment in Aging (3)
SOWK 458 Perspectives on Death and Dying (3)
Field practicum: 5 credit minimum may apply

Required program credits

14-16 credits

Elective credits

6-9 credits

(Minimum if practicum required)

11-14 credits

Minimum total credits for above minor

20 credits

Minimum total credits for above minor (with practicum)

25 credits

(A field practicum of 5 credits is required of those students not having completed a practicum in aging in their major.)

Note: students in the physical sciences will be required to take courses in the social sciences and students in the social sciences will be required to take courses in the physical sciences.

Note: the Council on Social Work Education does not accredit minors.

See course descriptions listed under the participating programs and departments: Biology, Economics, Psychology, Social Work and Sociology.