Gerontology
IN THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
IN THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Faculty
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Assistantships
Graduate teaching and research assistantships in gerontology
are available to a limited number of qualified students. Information
regarding the availability of funds and the process for application
may be obtained from the School of Social Work.

General Information
The Master of Science degree in gerontology is supported by
interdisciplinary faculty from several departments. The program
is administered by the School of Social Work. The primary goal of
the Gerontology Graduate Program is to offer high-quality inter-
disciplinary education and training that focus on the core areas
of gerontology such as theories of aging, aging policy, long-term
care, research methodology, design, development, administra-
tion, and evaluation of programs for the aged. The program is
committed to preparing students to enter positions in administra-
tion and management in a variety of organizations serving older
adults. This goal will be accomplished by offering coursework and
field experience aimed at providing the necessary knowledge and
skills to encourage/promote gerontology competencies and
evidence-based administration and management as related to
older adults.

Admission to Graduate Study
The student must satisfy the general requirements for admis-
sion to the university with classified standing, as described in
Admission and Registration. Students whose preparation is
deemed insufficient by the gerontology admissions committee
may be admitted as conditionally classified and will be required
to complete specific courses in addition to the minimum 36
units required for the degree. Students from other disciplines
are encouraged to apply. Applicants should have a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) during
the last 60 semester units of undergraduate college/university
coursework. The grade point average must be in concurrence
with Division of Graduate Affairs requirements for admission.
Admission requirements are outlined in the graduate application
package for an advanced degree in gerontology at San Diego
State University.

Students applying for admission should electronically submit
the university application available at http://www.calstate.edu/
apply along with the application fee.

All applicants must submit admissions materials separately to
SDSU Graduate Admissions and to the School of Social Work.

Graduate Admissions
The following materials should be submitted as a complete
package directly to:

Graduate Admissions
Enrollment Services
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

1. Official transcripts (in sealed envelopes) from all postsec-
ondary institutions attended;

NOTE:
• Students who attended SDSU need only submit transcripts
for work completed since last attendance.
• Students with international coursework must submit both
the official transcript and proof of degree. If documents are
in a language other than English, they must be accompanied
by a certified English translation.

2. GRE scores (http://www.ets.org SDSU institution code
4682);
3. English language score, if medium of instruction was in a
language other than English (http://www.ets.org SDSU
institution code 4682);

School of Social Work
The following materials should be submitted by March 1 for the
fall semester to:

School of Social Work
(Attention: Gerontology Graduate Adviser)
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-4452

1. Three letters of reference in support of your application
from academic references;
2. Personal statement outlining your goals, background, inter-
exts, and abilities;
3. Curriculum vitae or resume.

Advancement to Candidacy
All students must pass the general requirements for advance-
tment to candidacy as described in Requirements for Master’s
Degrees. Advancement to candidacy is contingent upon classified
graduate status, completion of 12 semester units with a min-
imum grade point average of 3.0, satisfactory completion of an
oral examination with a minimum grade of B and approval of the
Graduate Council. Advancement to candidacy will be conferred
prior to graduation.

Specific Requirements for the Master of
Science Degree
(Major Code: 12 043) (SIMS Code: 551904)

Admission currently suspended for the Master of Science
degree in Gerontology.

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate
standing and the basic requirements for the Master of Science
degree as described in Requirements for Master’s Degrees, the
student must complete a minimum of 36 units. The program con-
sists of 30 units of required core courses and six units of electives.

Core Curriculum Requirements. A minimum of 30 units is
required in the following core courses:

GERO 520 Analysis of Programs for the Aging..................3
GERO 605 Long-Term Care........................................3
GERO 690/ SWORK 690 Seminar in Research Methods
for Social Work and Gerontology ..........................3
GERO 700A Practicum (Cr/NC)......................................3
GERO 740/ SWORK 740 Advanced Seminar in Administra-
tion and Community Development in
Social Work and Gerontology.........................3
SWORK 610 Computer Application in Practice for
Social Work and Gerontology.........................3
SWORK 632 Social Work and Gerontology:
Organizations and Communities......................3
SWORK 702 Seminar in Selected Social
Welfare Policy and Services.........................3
Gerontology

Plan A
GERO 799A  Thesis (Plan A)..............................3 (Cr/NC/RP)
OR
Plan B
GERO 700B  Practicum (Plan B).........................3 (Cr/NC)

Electives. A minimum of six units of electives is required. Selected with the approval of the student's adviser, electives must include courses in gerontology or departments related to gerontology. Any gerontology graduate course or 500- to 700-level courses not taken for credit in the core curriculum qualify as electives. The breadth of courses available to supplement the core of required courses will be extensive, and draw on resources from across the university.

Plan A: Students who complete Plan A, Thesis option for the M.S. degree in gerontology must include Gerontology 799A (Thesis) in the 30-unit program, complete Gerontology 797 as one of the electives, and pass a final oral examination on the thesis.

Plan B: Students in Plan B must include Gerontology 700B to fulfill core requirements and pass a comprehensive written examination.

Courses Acceptable for Master's Degree Program in Gerontology (GERO)
Refer to Courses and Curricula and Regulations of the Division of Graduate Affairs sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES
GERO 520. Analysis of Programs for the Aging (3)
Prerequisite: One upper division course in gerontology.

Major programs in aging that support daily functioning of elderly. Effectiveness of programs in serving today's elderly with attention to ethnic and cross-cultural variations.

GERO 596. Advanced Special Topics in Gerontology (1-4)
Advanced selected topics in gerontology. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum credit of six units of 596 applicable to a bachelor's degree. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

GRADUATE COURSES
GERO 605. Long-Term Care (3)
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Issues and problems in a changing long-term care delivery system for older people in a multi-cultural society. Emphasis on frailty of the elderly, demand for affordable long-term care, and analysis of federal and state policies shaping the industry.

GERO 690. Seminar in Research Methods for Social Work and Gerontology (3)
(Same course as Social Work 690)
Research development, design, and methodology. Application to social work and gerontology in testing theories, advancing practice knowledge, and decision-making.

GERO 696. Contemporary Topics in Gerontology and Geriatrics Seminar (3)
Prerequisite: A graduate level course in gerontology. Areas of gerontology and geriatrics that make an immediate impact on the quality of life and lifestyles of the elderly. To include diverse life situations of older people. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of 596 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

GERO 700A-700B. Practicum (3-3) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Consent of adviser.
Supervised field placement in public or private setting. Application of gerontological theory, policy, objectives, principles, and skills in service to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

GERO 740. Advanced Seminar in Administration and Community Development in Social Work and Gerontology (3)
(Same course as Social Work 740)
Prerequisites: Social Work 632 and concurrent registration in Gerontology 700A or Social Work 755.
Human services program design, strategic planning, marketing, organizational performance management, human resource management, and development of grant proposals.

GERO 797. Research (1-3) Cr/NC/RP
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.
Research in an area of gerontology. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

GERO 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP
Prerequisite: Consent of adviser.
Individual study. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

GERO 799A. Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP
Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.
Preparation of a thesis for the master's degree.

GERO 799B. Thesis Extension (0) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP.
Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis is granted final approval.

GERO 799C. Comprehensive Examination Extension (0) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Completion or concurrent enrollment in degree program courses.
Registration required of students whose only requirement is completion of the comprehensive examination for the master's degree. Registration in 799C limited to two semesters.