Certificate Overview

The objective of the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology is to prepare both graduate students and practicing professionals to assume key roles in improving the quality of life for older adults and furthering our understanding of the aging process and the status of older adults.

The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology offers students and professionals specialized training in aging from a multi- and inter-disciplinary perspective. Persons working toward their Certificate include:

- Graduate students preparing for careers in public service and program administration that relate to understanding and meeting the needs of the older population;
- Graduate degree candidates in the basic and applied sciences, such as biology or chemistry, who are interested in the study of aging;
- Candidates seeking professional degrees in human service professions, such as nursing, pharmacy, physician assistant studies or physical therapy, who plan to provide specialty services to older adults;
- Professionals with an interest in the field of aging who desire further course work in gerontology to enhance their professional development.

Curriculum

The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology is awarded to individuals who complete 15 graduate credit hours in an approved multi- and interdisciplinary curriculum in gerontology.

Twelve hours of coursework must include at least one course (3 hours) in each of the following areas:

- Biomedical Sciences and Health Services
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Policy, Planning and Ethics

Students may choose courses according to their preference and course availability. To ensure an interdisciplinary experience, no more than two courses may be taken from each department. Special requests for a waiver of this policy must be submitted to the program director or coordinator and approved in advance. There are specific curriculum requirements for PharmD and Physician Assistant Studies students.

Students must receive an A or B in all Certificate coursework.

Course work must be complemented by a three hour applied experience. This may be either a field placement practicum or a research project conducted under the supervision of a faculty member.

Please see the website for more information about the curriculum options.

Eligibility-Admission

The minimum Graduate School requirements for admission to a certificate curriculum are the same as those in effect for post-baccalaureate status.

- Students, who already are or will be enrolled in a degree program, or those who simply apply for post-baccalaureate (non-degree) status in order to complete the certificate, are eligible to apply for admission.
- Applicants for admission to the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology must be approved for admission by the certificate director who shall notify the Graduate School student’s admission. A student should apply and be admitted to the certificate curriculum prior to taking any classes that will be counted toward completion of the certificate.

Admission to or award of a graduate certificate does not guarantee admission to a degree program in the same or any other discipline.

Application Process

Students must be admitted to the UK Graduate School. Unless you are currently an MPH student, you must apply and be admitted to the Graduate School. Graduate School application deadlines and forms may be obtained through their website at: http://www.rgs.uky.edu/gs/.

Submit Graduate School applications directly to the Graduate School. Please note and adhere to the submission deadlines of the Graduate School.

Pre-approved certificate courses that have already been completed may count towards the curriculum requirements. (This does not include internships.) Requests to include these courses are made on the application.

No more than six hours previously completed at UK can be counted toward the certificate.

Website Link


Certificate Director

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