Pitt Online

Graduate Certificate in Gerontology Curriculum

Required Courses (7 Credits)

GERON 2001: Ethics and Aging, 3 Credits

This course offers an introduction to the analysis of ethical issues associated with an aging society and, in particular, the clinical care of older adults. Participants will be able to identify major ethical issues affecting older adults, their caregivers, and society and will be able to engage in the exploration and analysis of those issues using the bioethics frameworks studied and discussed in class.

GERON 2005: Gerontology: Perspectives in Aging, 3 Credits

This course will provide the student with an introduction to the aging process in our society. It will examine the aging phenomena by focusing on life span development, person-environment interaction, optimal quality of life, cross-cultural considerations, how aging is studied, and access to resources in a new age.

GERON 2010: Seminar Series on Aging, 1 Credit

This course provides a student with the opportunity to study independently and in detail, some aspect of aging in which he or she has a particular interest.

Elective Courses (Select 9 Credits)

BCHS 2534: Clinical Aspects of Dementia Care, 2 Credits

This course is designed as an independent study for students in the multidisciplinary track. Its focus is on methods and technology for diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease

GERON 2000: Directed Study (prerequisite: all courses), 1-3 Credits

A student-initiated educational experience, guided by a faculty member that significantly supplements the core curriculum of the certificate and provides specialized, focused training in aging.

GERON 2002: Prevention and Healthy Aging, 3 Credits

This course will provide the guidance and rationale for promoting health, prevention, and effective risk factor management in the adult population (50+) in respect to rising health care costs, decreasing benefits, and the aging of our population. This course offers a general overview of various aging issues (physical, cognitive, social, cultural, and economic) that impact the individual, community, and society. This course will prepare students to integrate optimal preventive practice into their professional context and translate evidence-based strategies into

community outreach services that are designed to prevent or delay the common conditions of aging and ones that emphasize the importance of healthy behaviors throughout the life span.

GERON 2003: Intergenerational Studies, 2 Credits

This course provides the student with an interactive experience based on the 13-year success of Generations Together Intergenerational Training Institute at the University of Pittsburgh. The course is designed to help develop skills needed for success in the intergenerational field. Students read course materials, do online assignments, discuss the content with fellow students and instructors, and follow step-by step procedures to complete the individual units.

GERON 2004 – Mental Health and Mental Illness in Late-Life, 3 Credits

This course will review issues in mental health in late life, ranging from normal aging and coping with stress, to the presentation of and treatment of mental illness in late life. The course will be organized as a discussion course requiring regular participation from students to analyze weekly readings and react to guest lectures. This seminar has three main objectives: To introduce students to issues of both mental health and mental illness in late life, to familiarize students with the mental illness affecting older adults, and to engage students in identifying, exploring and analyzing issues related to mental health in late life and both differences and similarities between mid-life and older adults

GERON 2006 – Multi-Disciplinary Aspects of Dementia, 3 Credits

The course is designed to provide students with a general overview of dementia and its subtypes. Students will become familiar with current evidence in the study of dementia from across disciplines including epidemiology, biology, psychology, and sociology. Practical issues surrounding the care of dementia patients from a professional and personal perspective will also be presented. Participation in online group discussions will be required.

GERON 2008: Human Performance, Nutrition and Aging, 3 Credits

This course is designed to provide a broad foundation of information related to Human Performance and Nutrition as one ages. The impact of Human Performance and Nutrition on an individual's overall wellness and independence is examined.

GERON 2009: Aging and Communication, 3 Credits

This course is an in-depth look at the intersection of aging and communication in present-day society, with a specific focus on late-middle-aged and older adults. Topics explored will include health and healthcare, media, cross-generational and socio-political issues.

GERON 2014: Caregiving in Aging, 3 Credits

This course is designed for students to learn about the evolving role of caregiving in our society. This course will examine the challenges and responsibilities associated with caring for an older adult in the home setting, and the supportive options and resources that are available.