Gerontology (MA)

This program is offered by the College of Arts & Sciences.

Program Description

The curriculum is designed to provide students with the skills and knowledge necessary for careers related to gerontology, which is the study of aging, in all aspects, from a behavioral and social sciences point of view. The courses in the program draw upon a variety of disciplines such as management, the behavioral and social sciences, economics, political science, and the natural sciences. Within this multidisciplinary framework, students are provided with a broad educational base concerning the impact of aging on individuals and cultures. The gerontology core courses as well as the program electives are concerned with maximizing the application of gerontological knowledge particularly in areas of direct service, consulting, program development, management, and administration.

As the population of the United States and other parts of the world ages, the need for individuals in all aspects of society and business with knowledge of aging will only increase. Those who prepare for this change in demographics by developing an expertise relative to gerontological issues and concerns will be quite marketable as professionals. The gerontology curriculum is designed to provide students with the requisite core knowledge regarding aging individuals and the impact of this “age wave” on social, economic, and political structures. A degree in gerontology prepares you to understand and provide vital services for the older adult population, including: policy development; case management; community-based services; product design and advertising; administration; health services; human resources; and direct services such as counseling, medical, and financial planning.

Gerontology courses may be taken as electives in conjunction with other graduate programs.

This program is only offered online.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate their knowledge of concepts related to healthy aging in terms of physical, psychological, economic, and social science domains.
- Demonstrate an integration and synthesis of theoretical approaches to healthy aging in the physical, psychological, economic, and social science domains.
- Apply scientific research to specific, real world issues.

Program Curriculum

The 36 credit hours required for the master of arts (MA) in gerontology or the 54 credit hours required for the master of business administration (MBA) with an emphasis in gerontology must include the following courses:

- GERN 5000 Gerontology* (3 hours)
- GERN 5600 Economic Issues for Older Adults (3 hours)
- GERN 5620 Physiology of Aging (3 hours)
- GERN 5630 Psychology of Aging (3 hours)
- GERN 5640 Management of Programs for Older Adults (3 hours)
- GERN 5660 Research and Assessment in Gerontology (3 hours)
- GERN 5670 Social Science Perspectives in Gerontology (3 hours)
- GERN 6000 Integrated Studies in Gerontology (3 hours)

*Requisite course

In addition, the student chooses the remaining required credit hours from elective courses offered in this major and/or from the program curricula of other majors.

If the requisite course is waived, the student must choose an elective course from this major or from the program curriculum of another major. Students pursuing dual majors who have the requisite course(s) waived will complete only the remaining required courses for the dual majors.

The required courses and electives listed in this core may be taken as directed studies, subject to the conditions stated in the Directed Studies section listed under Academic Policies and Procedures.

Admission

Students who are interested in applying to this degree program should see the Admission Section of this catalog for general requirements.

Send all required admission materials to:
Webster University
Office of Admission
470 East Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63119

Advancement to Candidacy

Students are admitted to their graduate program upon completion of all admission requirements. Students are advanced to candidacy status after successfully completing 12 credit hours of graduate credit, with grades of B– or better. In the MBA program and other specialized programs, courses required as prerequisites to the program do not count toward the 12 credit hours required for advancement. A student who receives one F or two C's before advancement is dismissed. Students admitted on a conditional basis into the School of Business and Technology, the College of Arts & Sciences, or the School of Communications are limited to taking one course per term. Such students who earn one grade of C or below before they are advanced to candidacy will be dismissed without further right to appeal for reinstatement but may apply for readmission after one calendar year from the date of dismissal. Exceptions for international students may apply.