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# USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology



*Assistant Professor Valter Longo explores a new way to look at the aging process. His much debated “group selection” theory challenges Charles Darwin’s theory of natural selection by rejecting the long-accepted theory that aging, like evolution, happens on an individual level.*

The USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, opened in 1975, is the first professional school of gerontology in the United States. The School of Gerontology is the instructional division of the Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center. The Gerontology Center was established in 1964 as a major research and training institute for the study of aging. The school is able to draw upon the rich and supportive environment of the center to offer a wide range of professional and scientific courses.

The major purpose of the school is to prepare professionals at the undergraduate, master’s and doctoral levels for work in programs, organizations, agencies and businesses which address the needs of an aging population. This includes the education of administrators, program planners, policy analysts, researchers, instructors and direct service personnel for employment in government, human services, social services, health care, education, recreation and private enterprise.

The school functions as a multidisciplinary educational institution with faculty members representing the major professional and disciplinary fields related to gerontology.

The curriculum provides each student with a firm understanding of the basic concepts and research of gerontology in addition to developing professional skills in a particular area through field practice, course work and research.

**Andrus Gerontology Center 102**  
 (213) 740-5156  
 FAX: (213) 740-0792  
 Email: ldsgero@usc.edu

#### Administration

Elizabeth Zelinski, Ph.D.,  
*Dean and Executive Director*  
*of the Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center*

John Walsh, Ph.D.,  
*Director, Leonard Davis School of Gerontology*

#### Faculty

*William and Sylvia Kugel Dean's Chair in Gerontology:* Elizabeth M. Zelinski, Ph.D.

*AARP University Chair in Gerontology:* Vern L. Bengtson, Ph.D.\*

*ARCO/William F. Kieschnick Chair in the Neurobiology of Aging:* Caleb E. Finch, Ph.D.

*James E. Birren Chair in Gerontology:* Kelvin J.A. Davies, Ph.D., D.Sc.

*Edna M. Jones Chair in Gerontology:* Eileen Crimmins, Ph.D.\*

*UPS Foundation Chair in Gerontology:* Jon Pynoos, Ph.D.\*

*The Chinese-American Golden Age Association/ Dr. Frances Wu Endowed Chair in Social Welfare Policy and Services to the Chinese Elderly, the Elderly and the Handicapped:* Iris Chi, Ph.D. (Social Work)

*Merle H. Bensinger Professorship in Gerontology:* Bob Knight, Ph.D.

*Albert L. and Madelyne G. Hanson Family Trust Assistant Professorship:* Christian Pike, Ph.D.

*Mary Pickford Foundation Professorship in Gerontology:* Kathleen Wilber, Ph.D.

*Professors:* William Bondareff, M.D., Ph.D. (Medicine); Margaret Gatz, Ph.D. (Psychology); Martin Levine, Ph.D. (Law, Psychiatry and the Behavioral Sciences); Roseann Mulligan, D.D.S. (Dentistry); Robert C. Myrtle, D.P.A. (Policy, Planning, and Development); Victor Regnier, M.Arch. (Architecture); Edward L. Schneider, M.D.; Lon Schneider, M.D. (Psychiatry and Neurology); Merrill Silverstein, Ph.D.; John Tower, Ph.D. (Biological Sciences); Kathleen Wilber, Ph.D.\*

*Associate Professors:* Phoebe Liebig, Ph.D.\*; Loren G. Lipson, M.D. (Medicine); Jeffrey McCombs, Ph.D. (Pharmacy); Michal Mor-Barak, D.S.W. (Social Work); Mike Nichol, Ph.D. (Pharmacy); John Walsh, Ph.D.\*; Bradley R. Williams, Pharm.D. (Clinical Pharmacy)

*Assistant Professors:* Maria Aranda, Ph.D. (Social Work); Valter Longo, Ph.D.; Christian Pike, Ph.D.

*Research Associate Professor:* Roseann Giarrusso, Ph.D.

*Research Assistant Professors:* Donna Benton, Ph.D.; Gennady Ermak, Ph.D.; Todd Morgan, Ph.D.; Gia Robinson Shurgot, Ph.D. (Psychology); Lisa Shugarman, Ph.D.; Ana Marie Yamada, Ph.D. (Social Work)

*Adjunct Professors:* Gerald A. Larue, Ph.D.\* (Religion); Fernando Torres-Gil, Ph.D.\*

*Adjunct Associate Professors:* Bryan Kemp, Ph.D.; Monika White, Ph.D.

*Adjunct Assistant Professors:* Debra Sheets, Ph.D.; Carl Renold, Ph.D.; Marlene Wagner, Ph.D. (Literature)

*Clinical Associate Professors:* Raquel D. Arias, M.D.; Michael Gilewski, Ph.D.; Anne Katz, Ph.D.

*Clinical Assistant Professor:* Freddi Segal-Gidan, Ph.D.; Dory Sabata, OTD

*Emeritus Professors:* James E. Birren, Ph.D.; David A. Peterson, Ph.D.

*Emeritus Research Associate Professor:* Richard Davis, Ph.D.

\*Recipient of university-wide or college teaching award.

#### Programs

The Leonard Davis School of Gerontology offers an undergraduate degree, Bachelor of Science in Gerontology, undergraduate classes through the Health and Humanity major in the USC College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, and two minors in aging open to all undergraduate students. The School of Gerontology offers several graduate degrees including: Master of Science in Gerontology; an online Master of Arts in Gerontology; an online Master of Long Term Care Administration (with the Marshall School of Business and the School of Policy, Planning, and Development), and a Ph.D. in Gerontology. Non-degree graduate students may complete 16 units of gerontology and be awarded a graduate level certificate in gerontology.

Master's degree students may pursue one of several dual degrees which are jointly offered with other professional schools. These are the Master of Science in Gerontology/Master of Business Administration (M.S./M.B.A.) with the Marshall School of Business; Master of Science in Gerontology/Doctor of Dental Surgery (M.S./D.D.S.) with the School of Dentistry; Master of Science in Gerontology/Master of Public Administration (M.S./M.P.A.) with the School of Policy, Planning, and Development; Master of Science in Gerontology/Master of Health Administration (M.S./M.H.A.) with the School of Policy, Planning, and Development; Master of Science in Gerontology/Master of Social Work (M.S./M.S.W.) with the School of Social Work; Master of Science in Gerontology/Juris Doctor (M.S./J.D.) with the Gould School of Law; Master of Science in Gerontology/Master of Planning (M.S./M.Pl.) with the School of Policy, Planning, and Development; Master of Science in Gerontology/Doctor of Pharmacy (M.S./Pharm.D.) with the School of Pharmacy; and Master of Science in Gerontology/Master of Arts in Jewish Communal Services (M.S./M.A.) with Hebrew Union College.

In addition to the degree, minor and certificate programs, overview courses in aging are offered for undergraduates enrolled in other units of the university. Many gerontology courses can be credited as elective units.

#### Honor Society

The student honor society is Sigma Phi Omega, the national honor society formed in 1980 to recognize the excellence of those who study gerontology. The organization seeks to promote scholarship and professionalism, and to recognize exemplary attainment in the field of aging. Undergraduates must have a GPA of at least 3.3 and graduate students a GPA of at least 3.5. Sigma Phi Omega is administered by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, an educational unit of the Gerontological Society of America.

#### The Gerontology Research Institute

The Gerontology Research Institute initiates, designs and executes basic research on the many phases of development and aging, and provides for graduate and post-graduate training in the biological, social and behavioral sciences. Specific areas of study include neurobiology, cognitive science, histopathology, social organization behavior, human service delivery, biodemography and social policy.

The institute offers a multidisciplinary research training program in gerontology. It is directed toward graduate students pursuing the Ph.D. as well as a limited number of post-doctoral fellows who develop research and academic careers in specialized areas of gerontology. Research training is carried out within individual disciplines.

In addition to the Ph.D. in Gerontology, programs are available through the various disciplines of the university in cooperation with faculty in the research institute. Persons interested in this level of education should contact the Gerontology Research Institute,

Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center, University of Southern California, University Park, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0191.

## Undergraduate Programs

### Bachelor of Science in Gerontology

The Bachelor of Science in Gerontology prepares students for admission to a graduate or professional school with an emphasis on aging, such as medicine, law, dentistry, social work, occupational/physical therapy, public administration, urban planning, business or social gerontology. It also prepares students for entry level jobs in services for the aging in senior centers, corporations, nursing homes, nutrition programs, volunteer programs, area agencies on aging or other human services organizations.

Students planning to pursue a B.S. are urged to notify the school of this intent as early as possible during their undergraduate study. This will help ensure that the student receives proper advisement and that the student is alerted to any special requirements or program modifications.

During the freshman and sophomore years, students enroll primarily in general education required courses as specified by the university and the Gerontology gateway course (GERO 200).

During their junior and senior years, students enroll in required and elective courses in the School of Gerontology as well as other courses throughout the university. These courses are selected in consultation with an advisor and reflect the personal and professional interests of the students.

The honors program is available to students who maintain a GPA of 3.5 in gerontology and a GPA of 3.3 in other USC course work and are juniors. The honors program includes mentored training in research and course work relevant to research methodology and statistics.

A grade point average of at least C (2.0) on all units attempted at USC is required for undergraduate degrees. The School of Gerontology requires a minimum 2.0 grade point average in upper division major courses.

A health science track within the Bachelor of Science in Gerontology program has been designed for students who wish to pursue a career in medicine or other health related fields. Students will be able to meet medical school entrance requirements, while the program will also provide appropriate breadth and rigor of gerontology instruction and fulfill general education requirements. In addition, students will participate in a supervised practicum experience in which they will become directly involved with aging clients in a health care setting. Students interested in this program must make application to the department and be approved for admission to this specialized track. Upon acceptance, student progress will be closely monitored by a faculty advisor.

#### General Education Requirements

The university's general education program provides a coherent, integrated introduction to the breadth of knowledge you will need to consider yourself (and to be considered by other people) a generally well-educated person. This new program requires six courses in different categories, plus writing and diversity requirements, which together comprise the USC Core. See pages 60 and 219 for more information.

#### Foreign Language or Programming Skills (12 Units)

Students in the health science track must complete ITP 101x. All others must satisfy the skill level requirement in one language or complete ITP 101x and additional ITP 100-level programming courses to total 12 units.

#### Degree Requirements

REQUIRED COURSES		UNITS
GERO 200	Gerontology: The Science of Adult Development	4
GERO 320	Psychology of Adult Development	4
GERO 330	Society and Adult Development	4
GERO 340	Policy, Values, and Power in an Aging Society	4
GERO 350	Administrative Problems in Aging	4
GERO 416	Health Issues in Aging	4
GERO 481	Case Management for Older Adults	4
GERO 491	Gerontology Practicum	4
GERO 492	Senior Seminar in Aging	4
	General Education	24
	Writing Requirement	8
	Foreign Language or Programming	12
	Gerontology electives	12
	One approved statistics course	4
	Electives in gerontology or related disciplines (8 units upper division)	32
	Total: 128	

#### Health Science Track in Gerontology

##### Requirements for Admission

The listed requirements for admission to the health science track in gerontology will not differ from existing requirements for admission to the Bachelor of Science in Gerontology. However, because health professional schools are very competitive, USC students interested in this program will be expected to have achieved at least a 3.0 grade point average (A = 4.0) and will be carefully reviewed by faculty before being admitted. Students entering the program from high schools or transferring from community colleges will also be expected to meet the minimum admission standards as well as undergo a faculty review. Current USC students will not be able to "declare" gerontology as their

major and enroll in the health science track without specific admission by the gerontology faculty.

### Degree Requirements

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS		UNITS
BISC 120L	General Biology: Organismal Biology and Evolution	4
BISC 220L	General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology	4
CHEM 105abL	General Chemistry	8
CHEM 322abL	Organic Chemistry	8
MATH 125	Calculus I	4
PHYS 135abL	Physics for the Life Sciences	8
		<hr/> 36

GERONTOLOGY UPPER DIVISION CORE COURSES		UNITS
GERO 310	Physiology of Aging	4
GERO 320	Psychology of Adult Development, or Society and Adult Development	4
GERO 330	Society and Adult Development	4
GERO 340	Policy, Values, and Power in an Aging Society	4
GERO 414	Neurobiology of Aging	4
GERO 495	Practicum in Geriatric Care	4
		<hr/> 20

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS		UNITS
General Education		24
Writing Requirement		8
ITP 101x	Introduction to Information Technology	4
Gerontology upper division electives		12
Electives in gerontology or related disciplines (8 units upper division)		24
		<hr/> 72
Total: 128		

### Honors Program in Gerontology

The Leonard Davis School offers an honors program to outstanding students already pursuing studies for the B.S. in Gerontology degree. This program offers students an opportunity to participate in mentored undergraduate research, taking course work in research methods and statistics in aging, and experience in writing an honors thesis that summarizes the research project. Honors students are required to complete GERO 497abc for a total of 6-8 units, beginning

in the fall or spring of the junior year. In the senior year, they must complete GERO 593 Research Methods with a minimum grade of B. GERO 593 is offered only in the fall semester. Completion of the program requires a minimum GPA of 3.5 in gerontology and 3.3 in other courses. The program leads to the designation on the transcript of Bachelor of Science in Gerontology with Honors.

The student takes two units of GERO 497a in the fall or spring of the junior year as a mentored research course to begin the process of developing an honors thesis. This would be in lieu of elective units. In the fall of the senior year the student would complete GERO 593 for four units and two units of GERO 497b, both in lieu of elective units. Also during the fall semester, the research design and methods for the honors thesis are finalized and the research project begun. In the spring, the student would register for 2-4 units of GERO 497c in lieu of elective units. The goal for that semester is to complete the research and write the honors thesis.

### Degree Requirements

REQUIRED COURSES		UNITS
GERO 200	Gerontology: The Science of Adult Development	4
GERO 320	Psychology of Adult Development	4
GERO 330	Society and Adult Development	4
GERO 340	Policy, Values, and Power in an Aging Society	4
GERO 350	Administrative Problems in Aging	4
GERO 416	Health Issues in Aging	4
GERO 481	Case Management for Older Adults	4
GERO 491	Gerontology Practicum	4
GERO 492	Senior Seminar in Aging	4
General Education		24
Writing Requirement		8
Foreign Language or Programming		12
Gerontology electives		12
One approved statistics course		4
Electives in gerontology and related disciplines		20-22
		<hr/> 116-118

GERONTOLOGY HONORS COURSES		UNITS
GERO 497abc	Honors Seminar	2, 2, 2-4
GERO 593	Research Methods	4
		<hr/> 10-12
Total: 128		

### Requirements for Completion of the Health Science Honors Track

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS		UNITS
BISC 120L	General Biology: Organismal Biology and Evolution	4
BISC 220L	General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology	4
CHEM 105abL	General Chemistry	8
CHEM 322abL	Organic Chemistry	8
MATH 125	Calculus I	4
PHYS 135abL	Physics for the Life Sciences	8
		<hr/> 36

GERONTOLOGY UPPER DIVISION CORE COURSES		UNITS
GERO 310	Physiology of Aging	4
GERO 320	Psychology of Adult Development, or Society and Adult Development	4
GERO 330	Society and Adult Development	4
GERO 340	Policy, Values and Power in an Aging Society	4
GERO 414	Neurobiology of Aging	4
GERO 495	Practicum in Geriatric Care	4
		<hr/> 20

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS		UNITS
General Education		24
Writing Requirement		8
ITP 101x	Introduction to Information Technology	4
Gerontology upper division electives		8
Electives in gerontology and related disciplines		16-18
		<hr/> 60-62

GERONTOLOGY HONORS COURSES		UNITS
GERO 497abc	Honors Seminar	2, 2, 2-4
GERO 593	Research Methods	4
		<hr/> 10-12
Total: 128		

## Bachelor of Arts in Health and Humanity

The Leonard Davis School of Gerontology offers an undergraduate degree, Bachelor of Science in Gerontology, undergraduate classes through the Health and Humanity major in the USC College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, and two minors in aging open to all undergraduate students. Students interested in pursuing gerontology courses as a part of their major program of study should consider this major (see page 329).



## Minors in Aging

The undergraduate minor program gives students the option of combining their major with an emphasis in gerontology, the study of aging. The minors provide students with the opportunity to supplement their education with a life course perspective of aging processes.

The minors, which are multidisciplinary in nature, allow the student to survey the sociological, political, psychological and biological aspects of aging; to gain an understanding of the current services available to older persons; and to examine the contemporary policy issues facing the field.

### *Individuals, Societies and Aging*

This minor is a fit for students in business, engineering, communication, cinema-television, or arts and sciences interested in developing a broad knowledge of issues in aging. Based largely on disciplines in the behavioral and social sciences, students learn how aging will impact their lives, families and careers. Upon completion of 20 units and graduation, the minor is noted on the student's transcript.

### *Science, Health and Aging*

The Science, Health and Aging minor is appropriate for students working toward careers in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, biological sciences, public health or other health related fields. Admission to the minor is only available to students who have completed 4 units of prerequisites (BISC 220L or BISC 221) as part of their major requirements. Upon completion of 20 units and graduation, the minor is noted on the student's transcript.

### Course Requirements

#### *Individuals, Societies and Aging*

REQUIRED COURSES	UNITS
GERO 320 Psychology of Adult Development	4
GERO 330 Society and Adult Development	4
GERO 340 Policy, Values, and Power in an Aging Society	4
Select two from the following:	
GERO 380 Diversity in Aging	4
GERO 416 Health Issues in Aging	4
GERO 435 Women and Aging: Psychological, Social and Political Implications	4

GERO 437 Social and Psychological Aspects of Death and Dying	4
GERO 481 Case Management for Older Adults	4
GERO 491 Gerontology Practicum	4
	<hr/> 20

### *Science, Health and Aging*

REQUIRED COURSES	UNITS
GERO 310 Physiology of Aging	4
GERO 414 Neurobiology of Aging	4
GERO 416 Health Issues in Aging, or	
GERO 496 Introduction to Clinical Geriatrics	4
Select two from the following:	
GERO 415 Neuroaffective Disorders of Aging	4
GERO 421 Managed Care for an Aging Society	4
GERO 437 Social and Psychological Aspects of Death and Dying	4
GERO 475 Ethical Issues in Geriatric Health Care	4
GERO 495 Practicum in Geriatric Care	4
	<hr/> 20

## Graduate Degrees

### Master's Degrees in Gerontology

#### Master of Science in Gerontology

The Master of Science in Gerontology prepares graduates to assume professional leadership positions in the delivery of services to older people and their families, in the planning and evaluation of services, in administration of programs and in the instruction of older people and service providers.

All students take core courses in physiological, psychological, sociological and social policy aspects of aging, research methods and the capstone course.

In addition, a series of courses, selected from a list of skill requirements, is chosen to assist the student in developing specific professional practice skills. A field practicum assures that these skills can be applied in agencies and institutional settings.

The Master of Science in Gerontology requires 52 units of course work and field experience. This includes 32 units of required courses and 20 units of specialization courses. The course work includes instruction on the processes of aging and professional courses designed to develop the skills needed for practice. The field practicum includes two semesters of practical experience working in an organizational setting.

Continuous registration in the program is required. There is a five year completion time limit for the degree. Leaves of absence are available for limited times and are excluded from the total time limit. A maximum of two absences (one year each) is allowed.

#### Prerequisites for Admission

Students applying for admission to the Master of Science in Gerontology program must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. In selecting applicants for admission, the School of Gerontology considers both academic potential (as reflected in undergraduate study and scores on the Graduate Record Examinations) and professional potential (as reflected in experience, references and career goals). The school requests information from applicants to supplement that supplied by the USC Application for Graduate Admission. Such supplemental information usually

includes a statement of interest in gerontology and letters of reference. Interviews may be required.

An approved statistics course is required of all students entering the program.

#### Probation and Disqualification

**Probation and Warning** Any graduate student whose cumulative or semester grade point average in the university falls below B (3.0) will be placed on academic probation.

A graduate student whose semester average falls below B (3.0) but whose cumulative grade point average in the university is 3.0 (A = 4.0) or higher will be placed on academic warning.

**Disqualification** A graduate student on academic probation will be disqualified if his or her cumulative record accumulates more than 12 units of C work. A graduate student, whether on probation or not, will be subject to disqualification if the Student Affairs Committee of the Davis School at any time determines deficiency in academic achievement.

#### Common Requirements

All candidates for the Master of Science degree must complete the following common requirements:

REQUIRED COURSES	UNITS	
GERO 510	Physiology of Development and Aging	4
GERO 520	Life Span Developmental Psychology	4
GERO 530	Life Span Developmental Sociology	4
GERO 540	Social Policy and Aging	4
GERO 591z	Field Practicum	8
GERO 593	Research Methods	4
		<hr/> 28
<i>Skill requirements:</i> 12 units from the following		
GERO 522	Counseling Older Adults and Their Families	4
GERO 543	Continuum of Care: A Systems Perspective	4
GERO 550	Administration and System Management in Programs for Older Adults	4
GERO 551	Applied Policy Skills in Aging	4
GERO 554	Program Evaluation	4

#### Electives

#### Capstone Course

GERO 555	Integrating Gerontology: A Multidisciplinary Approach	4
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Common requirements for all programs include the 28 required units and GERO 555, totaling 32 units. In addition, each candidate must complete the 12 units of skills requirements and 8 units of electives.

#### Field Practicum

The field practicum provides the opportunity for the student to gain valuable experience and develop needed skills by working in a community agency or institution. It involves 480 hours of community involvement, generally over two semesters.

Field placement assignments are made by the internship coordinator of the school in consultation with the student and in accordance with the resources available in the community. Every effort is made to secure placement which will reflect the student's capacity to assume the responsibilities of a professional in gerontology. Evaluations of the student's performance are sent to the school by the community agency; the student receives a grade of credit/no credit in GERO 591z Field Practicum.

#### Master of Science with Specialization in the Health Service Area and Long Term Care Certificate

In addition to the 32 units of common requirements for the M.S. in Gerontology, the following courses are required to earn the certificate.

CORE COURSES	UNITS	
PPD 509	Problems and Issues in the Health Field	4
PPD 510a	Financial Management of Health Services, or Financial Accounting in the Public and Non-Profit Sectors	4
PPD 545	Human Behavior in Public Organizations, or Quantitative Analysis I	4
PPD 557	Elective	4
		<hr/> 16

**ONE SPECIALIZED COURSE FROM THE FOLLOWING:**

GERO 550	Administration and System Management in Programs for Older Adults	4
PPD 600	Management of Managed Care Organizations	4
PPD 601	Management of Long-Term Care Organizations	4

**Advanced Placement Master of Science in Gerontology**

The Advanced Placement M.S. program allows the outstanding student who has completed a Bachelor of Science in Gerontology to waive several courses in order to complete the master's degree in 36 units rather than the 52 units for the regular program.

REQUIRED COURSES	UNITS	
GERO 510	Physiology of Development and Aging, or	
GERO 520	Life Span Developmental Psychology, or	
GERO 530	Life Span Developmental Sociology, or	
GERO 540	Social Policy and Aging	4
GERO 555	Integrating Gerontology: A Multidisciplinary Approach	4
GERO 591z	Field Practicum	8
GERO 593	Research Methods	4
Gerontology skill requirements	12	
Gerontology electives	4	
	36	

*Program Adaptation*

Three of the following courses, GERO 510, GERO 520, GERO 530 and GERO 540, will be waived for students in the advanced placement track. Advanced placement students admitted to dual degree programs (pages 632-636) must meet curriculum requirements for the respective programs.

**Online Master of Arts in Gerontology**

The online M.A. in Gerontology provides an opportunity for professionals who are currently working in an organization serving older adults and who cannot come to campus to acquire skills and formal training in gerontology. The online program requires 28 units of course work.

The required courses are delivered via the Internet. The courses are offered in sequential order and are restricted by availability. Continuous registration in the program is required. Leaves of absence are available for limited times and are excluded from the total time limit. Entering students are required to begin their course of study by taking GERO 500.

In order to participate in the online courses, students will be required to have access to a multimedia computer with modem, printer and CD-ROM drive; an Internet provider with email and an Internet browser; and word processing software. Specific details regarding the computer requirements will be provided by the department.

Admission standards and prerequisites are the same as listed for the on-campus Master of Science in Gerontology with the exception that students in the online M.A. program must have a minimum of five years working in a human services, health care, business or similar setting with older adults. Students are not required to have taken an approved additional course.

Students will be given a \$50 credit per semester, if necessary, toward fees for proctored exams at a test site in the student's area.

REQUIRED COURSE (20 UNITS)	UNITS	
GERO 500	Perspectives on Aging: An Introduction	4
GERO 513	Stress, Health, and Aging	4
GERO 520	Life Span Developmental Psychology	4
GERO 530	Life Span Developmental Sociology	4
GERO 540	Social Policy and Aging	4
	20	

Students must select two courses (for a total of 8 units) from the following courses:

ELECTIVE COURSES (8 UNITS)	UNITS	
GERO 522	Counseling Older Adults and Their Families	4
GERO 550	Administration and System Management in Programs for Older Adults	4
GERO 560	Complementary Medicine for Health and Longevity	4
GERO 570	Corporate Policies and Aging	4
GERO 585	The Aging Family	4
GERO 589	Professional Issues in Gerontology	4
Total units required for degree	28	

**Graduate Level Certificate in Gerontology**

The residential graduate certificate in gerontology program provides an opportunity for those who have completed a bachelor's degree in another profession or discipline and are employed in the field of aging to acquire a greater understanding of gerontology theory and research. The program consists of 16 units of gerontology content designed to familiarize the student with several areas of the field which relate to professional practice.

In addition to three of the four required core course areas for the certificate program (GERO 510, GERO 520 or GERO 522, GERO 530 or GERO 585, GERO 540), each student will have the option to choose one elective course which meets his or her particular area of interest.

Certificate students do not take a field practicum. Students admitted to the non-degree certificate program are expected to enroll each semester until the program is completed.

**Online Graduate Level Certificate in Gerontology**

The online graduate certificate in gerontology program provides an opportunity for those with a bachelor's degree in another profession or discipline who are employed in the field of aging to acquire a greater understanding of gerontology theory and research. The program is designed to serve individuals who are unable to come to regularly scheduled classes or to the campus by delivering courses over the Internet. The program consists of 16 units of gerontology courses designed to familiarize the student with several areas of the field which relate to professional practice.

Students complete the introductory Internet-based course, GERO 500, two of the four required core course areas (GERO 510 or GERO 513, GERO 520 or GERO 522, GERO 530 or GERO 585, and GERO 540), and one elective course in a particular area of interest.

The required courses are delivered via the Internet. The courses are offered in sequential order and are restricted by availability. Continuous registration in the non-degree program is required. Leaves of absence are available for limited times and are excluded from the total time limit. Entering students are required to begin their course of study by taking GERO 500.

In order to participate in the online courses, students will be required to have access to a multimedia computer with modem, printer and CD-ROM drive; an Internet provider with email and an Internet browser; and word processing software. The department will provide specific details regarding the computer requirements.

**Online Master of Long Term Care Administration**

The online Master of Long Term Care Administration provides an opportunity for professionals who are currently working in a long term care profession and who cannot come to campus to acquire skills and formal training in long term care administration. The online program requires 28 units of course work.

The required courses are in sequential order and are restricted by availability. Continuous registration in the program is required. Leaves of absence are available for limited times and are excluded from the total time limit.

In order to participate in the online courses, students will be required to have access to a multimedia computer with modem, printer and CD-ROM drive; an Internet provider with email and an Internet browser; and word processing software. Specific details regarding the computer requirements will be provided by the department.

Admission standards are the same for the on-campus Master of Science in Gerontology with the exception that students in the online Master of Long Term Care Administration program are not required to have taken an approved statistics course and must have five years of relevant professional experience.

Students in every course will be authenticated. Possible methods for this process include producing letter verification of identity from an employer or predesignated faculty member from a college or university in close proximity to the student.

#### *Transfer Credits*

An admission credit evaluation is prepared for graduate students with previous graduate level course work. This review indicates which courses the university will approve but it is the relevant school (Gerontology, Business, or Policy, Planning, and Development) that determines if any of these courses are appropriate for this degree. A maximum of 4 units may be used toward the master's degree.

Graduate transfer credit will not be granted for life experience, credit by examination, non-credit extension courses, correspondence courses or thesis supervision. Graduate transfer credit will not be granted for any course work taken elsewhere after the student has been admitted and enrolled at USC unless the student receives prior written approval from the department.

## Dual Degree Programs

The Davis School of Gerontology cooperates with six other professional schools at USC and Hebrew Union College in offering programs in which the student receives two master's degrees. These degrees provide the student with the knowledge and skills of gerontology as well as those of the other professional field. The dual degrees require more course work than the M.S. alone, but

REQUIRED COURSES (24 UNITS)		UNITS
ACCT 509	Concepts of Financial and Management Accounting	4
GERO 500	Perspectives on Aging: An Introduction	4
GERO 513	Stress, Health, and Aging, or	
GERO 522	Counseling Older Adults and Their Families	4
IOM 585	Principles of Service Operations Management	4
PPD 601	Management of Long-Term Care Organizations	4
PPD 649	Concepts and Practices in Public Personnel Administration	4

Students must select one course (for a total of 28 units) from the following courses.

ELECTIVE COURSE (4 UNITS)		UNITS
GERO 520	Life Span Developmental Psychology	4
GERO 530	Life Span Developmental Sociology	4
GERO 540	Social Policy and Aging	4
GERO 589	Professional Issues in Gerontology	4

#### **Pharm.D.-Graduate Certificate in Gerontology**

This integrated program in pharmacy and gerontology prepares students with an interest in geriatric pharmacy to assume leadership roles at academic, administrative or policy levels within the profession.

The program involves the completion of 16 units of core courses in physiology, psychology, sociology and social policy aspects of aging offered by the School of Gerontology. In addition, students are required to complete 8 units of approved elective courses in gerontology or geriatric pharmacy to be credited toward the requirements for the Pharm.D. and the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology.

offer the graduate greater breadth of education and employment options.

Dual degrees currently available are the Master of Science in Gerontology and the Master of Business Administration (M.S./M.B.A.) with the Marshall School of Business; the Master of Science in Gerontology and the Doctor of Dental Surgery (M.S./D.D.S.) with the School of Dentistry;

REQUIRED COURSES IN GERONTOLOGY		UNITS
GERO 510	Physiology of Development and Aging, or	
GERO 513	Stress, Health, and Aging	4
GERO 520	Life Span Developmental Psychology, or	
GERO 522	Counseling Older Adults and Their Families	4
GERO 530	Life Span Developmental Sociology, or	
GERO 585	The Aging Family	4
GERO 540	Social Policy and Aging	4
		16
EIGHT UNITS OF ELECTIVES IN GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRIC PHARMACY		UNITS
GERO 554	Program Evaluation	4
GERO 555	Integrating Gerontology: A Multidisciplinary Approach	4
PHRD 655	Geriatric Pharmacy I	3
PHRD 656	Geriatric Pharmacy II	3
PHRD 703	Long Term Care Clerkship	6
PHRD 706	Geriatrics Clerkship	6
PHRD 730	Acute Care Geriatrics Clerkship	6
PHRD 731	Advanced Geriatrics Clerkship	6
		8

It is expected that the program can be successfully completed by candidates taking electives in geriatric pharmacy or gerontology during the regular semester and completing one core course in gerontology during each summer in the four year Pharm.D. program.

#### *Admission Requirements*

Students who have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university must submit separate applications to the USC School of Pharmacy and the School of Gerontology. All requirements for admission to the regular Pharm.D. program must be fulfilled by the candidate. GRE scores are not required for admission to the certificate program.

the Master of Science in Gerontology and the Juris Doctor (M.S./J.D.) with the Gould School of Law; the Master of Science in Gerontology and the Master of Public Administration (M.S./M.P.A.); the Master of Science in Gerontology and the Master of Health Administration (M.S./M.H.A.); and the Master of Science in Gerontology and the Master of Planning (M.S./M.Pl.) with the



School of Policy, Planning, and Development; the Master of Science in Gerontology and the Master of Social Work (M.S./M.S.W.) with the School of Social Work; the Master of Science in Gerontology and the Doctor of Pharmacy (M.S./Pharm.D.) with the School of Pharmacy. The School of Gerontology in cooperation with Hebrew Union College offers the Master of Science in Gerontology and the Master of Arts in Jewish Communal Service (M.S./M.A.). Students must apply to both schools simultaneously and, if accepted to both, participate in specially designed programs combining the courses of each school.

#### Admission to Dual Degree Programs

Applicants to any of the dual degree programs must submit two application forms to the Office of Admissions; one indicating gerontology as the major and one indicating the other degree as the major. Each of the schools must accept the student for admission. Acceptance into one school's degree program does not imply acceptance into the dual degree program.

#### Gerontology and Business Administration

The M.S./M.B.A. dual degree combines knowledge of the older population with the skills of business management. The program prepares graduates for a number of roles in both public and private sector organizations including the marketing of products or services to seniors, human resource development with older workers and retirement benefits.

#### Gerontology Requirements

The Master of Science in Gerontology requires 30 units of course and field work which covers the core content of the M.S. program.

REQUIRED COURSES	UNITS	
GERO 510	Physiology of Development and Aging	4
GERO 520	Life Span Developmental Psychology	4
GERO 530	Life Span Developmental Sociology	4
GERO 540	Social Policy and Aging	4
GERO 591z	Field Practicum	4
GERO 555	Integrating Gerontology: A Multidisciplinary Approach	4
Gerontology electives		6
		<hr/> 30

#### Business Administration Requirements

The Master of Business Administration will require 48 units of credit. Required courses include: all courses required in an M.B.A. core program; MOR 548 Competitive Advantage Through People (3 units); one marketing

elective chosen from among MKT 512 Marketing and Consumer Research, MKT 525 Consumer Behavior, MKT 560 Marketing Strategy and Policy, and MKT 569 Contemporary Marketing Problems (3 units); and additional graduate business electives sufficient to bring the total units completed in the Marshall School to at least 48. Dual degree students may not count courses taken outside the Marshall School of Business toward the 48 units.

#### Program Adaptation

The Davis School of Gerontology will waive 12 units of skill related courses and 6 units of electives, plus GERO 593 Research Methods (4 units), which are required in the regular M.S. program.

#### Gerontology and Dentistry

The M.S./D.D.S. dual degree program extends over five years and is offered cooperatively by the USC School of Dentistry and the Davis School of Gerontology. The program addresses the challenges facing oral health care providers as the number of older persons needing dental care increases. With the evolution of care toward patients who live longer lives, graduating dentists will be better prepared to provide service to the aging population in community settings and health care facilities.

The student spends the first year taking required D.D.S. courses in the School of Dentistry. Gerontology course work will be introduced in the second year and continues through the fifth year.

#### Gerontology Requirements

The Master of Science in Gerontology requires 38 units of course and field work taken in the School of Gerontology which covers the core content of the M.S. program.

REQUIRED COURSES	UNITS	
GERO 475	Ethical Issues in Geriatric Health Care	4
GERO 513	Stress, Health, and Aging	4
GERO 520	Life Span Developmental Psychology	4
GERO 530	Life Span Developmental Sociology	4
GERO 555	Integrating Gerontology: A Multidisciplinary Approach	4
GERO 540	Social Policy and Aging	4
GERO 591z	Field Practicum	6
GERO 593	Research Methods	4

ELECTIVE COURSES	UNITS	
Choose one from the following list in consultation with an advisor:		
GERO 522	Counseling Older Adults and Their Families	4
GERO 550	Administration and System Management in Programs for Older Adults	4
GERO 554	Program Evaluation	4

#### Dentistry Requirements

See page 475 in the Dentistry section for a listing of School of Dentistry requirements for the D.D.S./M.S. dual degree program.

#### Program Adaptation

The Davis School of Gerontology will waive 14 units of credit: GERO 510 Physiology of Development and Aging (4); GERO 589 Professional Issues in Gerontology (4); GERO 591z Field Practicum (2) and GERO electives (4). These requirements will be replaced by INTP 651 (4), INTP 502ab (2-2), GSPD 610 (1), GSPD 612 (1) and INTX 502e (1).

#### Gerontology and Pharmacy

The emerging impact of the elderly on the health care system has created a need for health care providers who understand the unique needs of the elderly. As drug therapy remains the primary therapeutic option for chronic disease, the demand for prescription drugs will continue to rise. There is a demand for pharmacists who are equipped to meet the pharmaceutical care needs of this population. Geriatric pharmacy is becoming increasingly recognized as a specialty. Pharmacists with expertise in gerontology and geriatrics are in an excellent position to play a leading role in health policy and direct patient care. The Pharm.D./M.S., Gerontology program will provide extensive education and training in the unique health care needs of older adults. It will allow student pharmacists with a career interest in geriatrics or gerontology to work with health care planning or delivery organizations to develop and implement progressive pharmaceutical care programs for the elderly.

#### Application and Admissions Requirements

Students applying for the dual degree program must meet the respective admission requirements for each program. This includes having completed a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 and a minimum GRE score of 1000. Students will not be given special consideration for admission to either program because they are applying for

the dual degree. Students may apply to the dual Pharm.D./M.S. degree program in two ways. First, they may apply at the time they submit their Pharm.D. application by concurrently submitting applications to both programs. Students, who elect this approach, must identify themselves on both applications as potential dual degree students. Students who are admitted to both programs will be offered admission to the Pharm.D. and will be offered admission to the dual degree program contingent on passing all courses in their first year of the Pharm.D. with a minimum 3.0 G.P.A. Students who are accepted by only one program may choose to attend that program, but will not be eligible for the dual degree. Second, students can apply to the dual degree by submitting an application to the M.S. in Gerontology program during their first year of enrollment in the Pharm.D. prior to the M.S., Gerontology published application deadline. Students, who elect this approach, must apply through the School of Pharmacy. Students admitted to the M.S. program using this approach will be offered admission to the dual degree contingent on passing all courses in their first year of the Pharm.D. with a minimum 3.0 G.P.A. Students accepted to the dual degree program must maintain a minimum 3.0 G.P.A. in their gerontology and Pharm.D. courses.

#### Graduation Requirements

Students must complete all requirements for the Pharm.D. and M.S. degrees as listed in the catalogue with a minimum cumulative 3.0 G.P.A. Students must complete 44 Gerontology units as indicated. The Pharm.D. degree course requirements are listed in the School of Pharmacy section on pages 765-768.

GERONTOLOGY REQUIREMENTS	UNITS	
GERO 510	Physiology of Development and Aging	4
GERO 520	Life Span Developmental Psychology	4
GERO 530	Life Span Developmental Sociology	4
GERO 540	Social Policy and Aging	4
GERO 555	Integrating Gerontology: A Multidisciplinary Approach	4
GERO 591z	Field Practicum (480 hours)	8
GERO 593	Research Methods	4
Skill requirements*		12
		<hr/> 44

\* Choose three of the following: GERO 522; GERO 543; GERO 550; GERO 551; or GERO 554.

#### Gerontology and Public Administration

The M.S./M.P.A. dual degree offers the student interested in management of agencies and institutions the opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge of the administrative and organizational processes and management skills necessary for the effective delivery of services to older persons.

In the M.S./M.P.A. dual degree, students spend their first year taking the required courses in the School of Gerontology. The research course (GERO 593) and the capstone course (GERO 555) are taken in the School of Gerontology. The student begins courses in the USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development during the second semester of the first year.

Two versions of this dual degree are available, one with a general orientation and one with an emphasis on health services administration. Students must apply to both schools and, if accepted to both, participate in a specially designed program combining course work from both schools.

GERONTOLOGY REQUIREMENTS	UNITS	
GERO 510	Physiology of Development and Aging	4
GERO 520	Life Span Developmental Psychology	4
GERO 530	Life Span Developmental Sociology	4
GERO 540	Social Policy and Aging	4
GERO 550	Administration and System Management in Programs for Older Adults	4
GERO 555	Integrating Gerontology: A Multidisciplinary Approach	4
GERO 591z	Field Practicum	8
GERO 593	Research Methods	4
Gerontology skills related elective		4
		<hr/> 40

#### POLICY, PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS	UNITS	
PPD 500	Cross Sectoral Governance	4
PPD 501	Public Sector Economics	4
PPD 540	Public Administration and Society	4
PPD 541	Public Financial Management and Budgeting	4
PPD 542	Policy and Program Evaluation, or	
PPD 557	Quantitative Analysis I, or	
PPD 666	Administrative Research and Analysis	4
PPD 545	Human Behavior in Public Organizations	4
PPD 546	Professional Practice of Public Administration	4
		<hr/> 4

#### Program Adaptation

For the M.S. in Gerontology, 8 units of skill related courses and 4 units of electives are waived. For the Master of Public Administration, 12 units of gerontology courses are used as the substantive specialization.

#### Gerontology and Health Administration

The Davis School of Gerontology provides the opportunity for students to specialize in health care administration (profit and non-profit) through the dual degree with the USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development's Health Administration Program.

GERONTOLOGY REQUIREMENTS	UNITS	
GERO 510	Physiology of Development and Aging	4
GERO 520	Life Span Developmental Psychology	4
GERO 530	Life Span Developmental Sociology	4
GERO 540	Social Policy and Aging	4
GERO 550	Administration and System Management in Programs for Older Adults	4
GERO 555	Integrating Gerontology: A Multidisciplinary Approach	4
GERO 591z	Field Practicum	8
GERO 593	Research Methods	4
		<hr/> 36

#### POLICY, PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS	UNITS	
PPD 509	Problems and Issues in the Health Field	4
PPD 510a	Financial Management of Health Services	4
PPD 513	Legal Issues in Health Care Delivery	4
PPD 514	Economic Concepts Applied to Health	4
PPD 515	Strategic Management of Health Organizations	4
PPD 516x*	Financial Accounting in the Public and Non-Profit Sectors	4
PPD 545	Human Behavior in Public Organizations	4
PPD 557	Quantitative Analysis I	4
PPD 601	Management of Long-Term Care Organizations	4
		<hr/> 36

\*Meets the accounting requirement for the M.H.A. portion of the M.S./M.H.A. dual degree program.

Any course substitutions are done by petition on an individual basis and should be part of a carefully developed course of study. The USC School of Policy, Planning, and

Development should be consulted concerning this program of study.

**Gerontology and Law**

The M.S./J.D. dual degree combines the knowledge of the older population with understanding of the legal system. The program prepares graduates for a number of roles in both public and private sector organizations. Students are required to complete 110 units of course work, 74 from the USC Gould School of Law and 36 from the Davis School of Gerontology. The first year is devoted to required law courses, and the second, third and fourth years combine gerontology and law courses. To earn the J.D., all students (including dual degree students) must complete 35 numerically graded law units at USC after the first year. The associate dean may make exceptions to the rule for students enrolled in the Law School honors program.

*Gerontology Requirements*

The Master of Science in Gerontology will require 36 units of course and field work which covers the core content of the M.S. program.

REQUIRED COURSES		UNITS
GERO 510	Physiology of Development and Aging	4
GERO 520	Life Span Developmental Psychology	4
GERO 530	Life Span Developmental Sociology	4
GERO 540	Social Policy and Aging	4
GERO 555	Integrating Gerontology: A Multidisciplinary Approach	4
GERO 591z	Field Practicum	8
GERO 593	Research Methods	4
Gerontology elective		4
		36

The Davis School of Gerontology will waive 16 units of electives which are required in the regular M.S. program.

*Law School Requirements*

The Law School requires 76 units of credit.

REQUIRED COURSES, FIRST YEAR		UNITS
LAW 502	Procedure I	4
LAW 503	Contracts	4
LAW 504	Criminal Law	3
LAW 505	Legal Profession	3
LAW 507	Property	4
LAW 508	Constitutional Law I	4
LAW 509	Torts I	4
LAW 515	Legal Research, Writing, and Advocacy I	2
LAW 516	Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy II	2
LAW 512	Law, Language, and Ethics	3

*Elective Course Work* The second and third years of law study are primarily elective with one requirement. Students must satisfy the upper division writing requirement, either by completing a major, faculty-supervised writing project such as a dissertation, or by taking a course with a substantial writing component.

The Law School will waive 14 units of electives which are required in the regular J.D. program.

**Gerontology and Social Work**

The M.S./M.S.W. dual degree offers the student interested in direct service or community organization the credentials most valued in clinical and therapeutic practice. Taken in connection with the social work degree, the M.S. focuses course and field work on the older person and prepares the student for social work with older persons and their families.

In the M.S./M.S.W. dual degree program, the student enrolls primarily in the first year program of the USC School of Social Work. During the summer session, courses are taken in the School of Gerontology. Second year courses are taken in both schools and field work during the second year is taken in the School of Gerontology. The research course is taken through the School of Social Work in the student's concentration area. The research course and capstone course of the School of Gerontology are waived.

GERONTOLOGY REQUIREMENTS		UNITS
GERO 510	Physiology of Development and Aging	4
GERO 520	Life Span Developmental Psychology	4
GERO 530	Life Span Developmental Sociology	4
GERO 540	Social Policy and Aging	4
GERO 591z	Field Practicum	8
Gerontology electives		8
		32

SOCIAL WORK REQUIREMENTS		UNITS
SOWK 503	Human Behavior and the Social Environment I	3
SOWK 505	Human Behavior and the Social Environment II	3
SOWK 534	Policy and Practice in Social Service Organizations	3
SOWK 543	Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families	4
SOWK 545	Social Work Practice with Groups and Complex Cases	2
SOWK 562	Social Work Research	3

SOWK 586ab	Field Practicum	3-3
SOWK 587ab	Integrative Learning for Social Work Practice	2-2
SOWK 611	Leadership in the Social Work Profession and Organizations: Theory and Practice	3
		31

In the second half of the social work program, students may enroll in one of four concentrations: Health; World of Work; Mental Health; or Community Organization, Planning and Administration (COPA). All students are required to take SOWK 611 Leadership in the Social Work Profession and Organizations: Theory and Practice. Required courses are selected based on the chosen concentration as follows:

HEALTH		UNITS
SOWK 631	Advanced Theories and Clinical Interventions in Health Care	3
SOWK 632	Program Planning and Evaluation in Health Care	3
SOWK 636	Social Policy: Health Care	3

WORLD OF WORK		UNITS
SOWK 671	Clinical Intervention and Advanced Theories in Work Settings	3
SOWK 672	Improving Work Life Through Social Policy and Managing Organizational Development and Change	3
SOWK 673	Program Development, Training, Grant Writing and Program Evaluation in Work Settings	3

MENTAL HEALTH		UNITS
SOWK 605	Human Development and Mental Health	3
SOWK 625	Evaluation of Research: Mental Health	3
SOWK 645	Clinical Practice in Mental Health Settings	3

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION, PLANNING, AND ADMINISTRATION (COPA)		UNITS
SOWK 629	Evaluation of Research: Community Organization, Planning and Administration	3
SOWK 639	Social Policy for Managers, Planners, and Community Organizers	3
SOWK 648	Management for Community and Social Services	3

Course selection is done only with an academic advisor's approval.

*Program Adaptations*

The School of Gerontology waives 12 units. The research course is taken through the School of Social Work in the student's concentration area, and GERO 593, the research course, and GERO 555 are waived as well as one elective. The School of Social Work waives 12 units.

**Gerontology and Planning**

The M.S./M.Pl. dual degree is one of few in the nation which combines the knowledge of the older population with the skills needed to plan services for older people. The M.Pl. prepares the graduate for the responsibilities involved in development of public and private institutions and programs. The M.S. indicates a special focus on the older person and the skills to analyze and design programs for this growing population.

*Requirements*

Requirements for completion of the dual degree program are 66 units including 26 units in gerontology, 36 units in planning from the School of Policy, Planning, and Development and a minimum of four units of thesis in gerontology or planning, as follows:

GERONTOLOGY		UNITS
GERO 510	Physiology of Development and Aging	4
GERO 520	Life Span Developmental Psychology	4
GERO 530	Life Span Developmental Sociology	4
GERO 540	Social Policy and Aging	4
GERO 591z	Field Practicum	6
Gerontology elective		4
		26

POLICY, PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT		UNITS
PPD 500	Cross-Sectoral Governance	4
PPD 524	Planning Theory	2
PPD 525	Statistics and Arguing from Data	2
PPD 526	Comparative International Development	2
PPD 527	The Social Context of Planning	2
PPD 528	The Urban Economy	2
PPD 529	Legal Environment of Planning	2
		16

Note: 2-unit courses may be offered in seven-and-a-half week blocks.

*Specialization Methodology:* A 4-unit course selected from list shown in the Master of Planning program.

*Laboratory/Workshops:* PPD 531L (4, 4) and/or PPD 532L (4, 4) to total 8 units.

*Electives:* 8 units of electives taken in the School of Policy, Planning, and Development.

*Thesis:* A thesis is required on a subject interrelating gerontology and urban planning and development. Students must register in a minimum of 4 units of PPD 594abz (2, 2, 0) or GERO 594abz (2, 2, 0). Students must maintain continuous registration until completion of the thesis.

**Gerontology and Jewish Communal Service**

The M.S./M.A. dual degree provides the student the opportunity to combine training in gerontology with a perspective on human services in the Jewish community. It prepares students for the delivery, planning and administration of services to older people in primarily Jewish settings. Students must apply for admission to both USC and Hebrew Union College.

GERONTOLOGY REQUIREMENTS		UNITS
GERO 510	Physiology of Development and Aging	4
GERO 520	Life Span Developmental Psychology	4
GERO 530	Life Span Developmental Sociology	4
GERO 540	Social Policy and Aging	4
GERO 555	Integrating Gerontology: A Multidisciplinary Approach	4
GERO 591z	Field Practicum	8
GERO 593	Research Methods	4
Gerontology elective		8
		40

For information about Jewish Communal Service requirements contact the Office of Admissions, Hebrew Union College — Jewish Institute of Religion, 3077 University Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90007-3796.

*Program Adaptations*

The School of Gerontology waives 12 units of gerontology electives. Thesis units for the Jewish Communal Service degree are taken at Hebrew Union College.

## Doctor of Philosophy in Gerontology

The purpose of the Ph.D. in Gerontology is to provide research training in the multidisciplinary field of aging. The program is designed to enhance the potential of able students to make scholarly and professional contributions to the field of gerontology through research and teaching. To obtain this goal, the Ph.D. in Gerontology provides (1) high level rigorous research training, (2) the acquisition and application of scientific knowledge in the field of aging and (3) the development of leadership skills.

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants for admission to the doctoral program must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Graduate standing in the University of Southern California.
- (2) Academic promise, as evidenced by above average achievement in previous undergraduate and graduate education. A minimum GPA of 3.5 on all prior graduate work is required. In addition, a 3.25 GPA in an appropriate undergraduate major and a baccalaureate degree are required.

- (3) Personal qualities compatible with high level performance in gerontology and indicating a potential for leadership in the field. This includes a strong commitment to developing a scientific research program. Applicants to the Ph.D. program must submit a resume of professional and academic experience, three letters of reference (academic and professional), a statement of objectives and examples of written work.

- (4) Satisfactory performance on the Graduate Record Examinations — existing test scores may be submitted if the GRE has been completed no more than five years prior to the date of application. A satisfactory score on the Verbal and Quantitative GRE is required. Students should also provide scores from the Analytic exam.

(5) Submission of application materials as required. Instructions for application to the Doctor of Philosophy in Gerontology may be obtained by contacting the School of Gerontology.

### Degree Requirements

#### *Course Requirements*

Students must complete a minimum of 60 units of course work (with at least 24 of these units being completed in residency at USC), as well as additional dissertation units as required. All students will take courses in three areas:

- (1) A basic scientific core area, taught by School of Gerontology faculty, will stress the physiological, psychological, sociological and theoretical dimensions of both individual and population aging. Five required courses include GERO 510 Physiology of Development and Aging, GERO 520 Life Span Developmental Psychology, GERO 530 Life Span Developmental Sociology, GERO 540 Social Policy and Aging, and GERO 628 Theories of Aging.
- (2) A second core area will develop appropriate research tools for the students' area of specialization. All students will learn data analysis skills, including appropriate statistics as well as appropriate laboratory methods. It should be noted that the School of Gerontology requires all graduate students to demonstrate basic competence in statistics as a prerequisite of enrollment.
- (3) A third area will involve electives which allow students to concentrate in a substantive or analytic field of inquiry. Areas of concentration include but are not limited to: the biology of aging, social processes and aging, psychology of aging and aging policy; courses may be taken in relevant USC schools or departments. Aging is an inherently interdisciplinary field and each student must develop a set of electives in conjunction with his or her advisory committee that is appropriate for the area of concentration.

Students will be advised about course selection during the first year by the school Ph.D. committee. As soon as they have selected a specialization (e.g., biology, psychology, sociology, policy) and advisory committee of appropriate faculty will be appointed. The purpose of the advisory committee is to help the student in the selection of courses and research; to monitor the student's progress; and to insure preparation for the qualifying examination.

During the first year the student is expected to complete two of the three semesters of the core courses in gerontology (GERO 510, GERO 520, GERO 530, GERO 540, GERO 628). Courses in research skills and specialization areas may also be taken in the first year and will be taken in subsequent years.

### Foreign Language Requirements

There are no foreign language requirements for the Ph.D. program.

### Transfer Credits

Students with master's degrees or prior graduate course work in gerontology can petition to apply the credit toward required courses. Petition for credit will be based on the Graduate School's policies and requirements for "transfer of credit" and on approval by the doctoral advisory committee. Transfer credits toward the Ph.D. requirements will be limited to 20 units and must be credits taken within 10 years of entering the program.

### Time Limit

The normal time for completing the Ph.D. is four to five years (without a prior master's degree). The first two years will consist of required and elective courses. The third year will consist of electives, the Ph.D. qualifying exams and completion of the dissertation proposal. The final year(s) will involve the completion of the dissertation. The maximum time to complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree is eight years from the first course at USC applied toward the degree. Students who have completed an applicable master's degree at USC or elsewhere within five years of the proposed enrollment in the Ph.D. program must complete the Ph.D. in six years.

### Screening Procedures

When students have completed a minimum of 16 but not more than 24 units of doctoral course work, the doctoral advisory committee assesses their performance through a screening process and makes a decision regarding their ability to continue in the program. If the student is granted permission to continue, a guidance committee is established.

### Guidance Committee

The guidance committee is composed of five faculty members, at least three from the School of Gerontology and at least one who holds a primary appointment in another academic unit of the university. The function of the guidance committee is to oversee the development of the student's academic progress through the qualifying examination, including the preliminary dissertation proposal.

### Qualifying Examination

As a prerequisite for candidacy for the Ph.D., students must pass a qualifying examination in their specialized field of study that is comprehensive in nature and that necessitates independent study beyond course requirements. Students must have completed at least 28 units of course work in the doctoral program with a GPA of at least 3.25 before attempting the qualifying exam. The exam is designed to test mastery of knowledge and scholarly skills and to test readiness to undertake independent research. If the student fails this exam, it may be repeated one time. When the exam is successfully completed, the student then must develop and have a dissertation proposal approved before the student is officially admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree.

### Doctoral Dissertation

Upon admission to candidacy, a dissertation committee is established which consists of three members of the faculty, some of whom may be from the guidance committee, one of whom must hold his or her primary appointment outside the School of Gerontology.

The dissertation committee has responsibility for providing guidance and consultation during the research process, approving the dissertation, conducting the final oral examination, and recommending the candidate for the Ph.D. degree. The doctoral dissertation should make an original contribution to the development of knowledge and theory in gerontology.

### Final Oral Examination

Upon approval of the final draft of the dissertation by all members of the dissertation committee, the candidate must pass a final oral examination. Upon successful completion of this final examination, the committee recommends the candidate to the Graduate School for award of the Ph.D. degree.

## Courses of Instruction

### GERONTOLOGY (GERO)

The terms indicated are *expected* but are not *guaranteed*. For the courses offered during any given term, consult the *Schedule of Classes*.

**200 Gerontology: The Science of Adult Development (4, FaSp)** Introduction to adult development through the lifespan; biological, psychological, and social processes; gerontology as a career for the future.

**210 Biology of Adult Development (4, FaSpSm)** Processes underlying human aging, from cellular mechanisms to organ systems; how basic research is applied to understand health, disease, and vitality throughout the lifespan.

**215 Nutrition and Health for a Lifetime (4)** Through an introduction to concepts and analytical thinking in the biological and nutritional sciences, this course investigates and evaluates recent information on major health risks during adulthood.

**310 Physiology of Aging (4, Fa)** Effects of normative aging processes on homeostatic mechanisms and how these changes relate to development of disorder and disease in later life. Lecture and discussion. *Prerequisite:* BISC 220L or BISC 221L.

**320 Psychology of Adult Development (4, FaSp)** How psychologists study thinking, memory, emotions, personality, and behavior, and how people change in these throughout adulthood to old age. *Recommended preparation:* PSYC 100.

**330 Society and Adult Development (4, FaSp)** How social relationships affect adults of different ages; the changing contract across generations; interaction of culture, race, family and social values with adult development.

**340 Policy, Values, and Power in an Aging Society (4, FaSp)** How Americans' political values affect public policy. Studies of landmark legislation to explore the social contract between generations and role of governments in social welfare. (Duplicates credit in former GERO 240.)

**350 Administrative Problems in Aging (2 or 4, Fa)** Analysis of the skills, approaches and issues involved in the planning, development, and implementation of programs directed at meeting the needs of older persons.

**380m Diversity in Aging (4)** Exploring diversity in the older population and variability in the human aging process.

**385 Transitions in Adulthood (2 or 4, Sp)** An exploration of the critical issues and transitions in the adult years, including careers, relationships, parenthood, and major turning points for personal development.

**390 Special Problems (1-4)** Supervised, individual studies. No more than one registration permitted. Enrollment by petition only.

**402 Housing for the Elderly: Policy, Programs and Design (2)** An overview of housing policies, programs, and design for the elderly, including analysis and evaluation of past, current, and proposed government programs.

**411L Physiology, Nutrition, and Aging (2 or 4)** Explores nutritional needs and the physiological, psychological, and sociological relationships to nutrition. Laboratory experiments in assessment and evaluation.

**412L Exercise and Aging: Principles and Programs (2 or 4)** Physiological, psychological, and sociological aspects of exercise. Laboratory involvement in assessment and evaluation of fitness.

**414 Neurobiology of Aging (4, Fa)** Age-related changes in nervous system structure and function; relationship of brain changes to changes in cognitive function and perception; Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Lecture and discussion. *Prerequisite:* BISC 220L or BISC 221L.

**415 Neuroaffective Disorders of Aging (4, Sp)** Methods of studying, evaluating, and treating cognitive, psychiatric, and behavioral problems associated with medical conditions of old age.

**416 Health Issues in Aging (4, Sp)** Physiological, psychological, and social health problems of older people; organizational factors in health care delivery.

**421 Managed Care for an Aging Society (4, FaSp)** Examines key legislation, policies, practice, and outcomes of managed care and how population aging affects health care delivery.

**435m Women and Aging: Psychological, Social and Political Implications (4)** Problems and resources of the middle-aged and older woman in a changing society; including discrimination, stereotypes, employment, social interaction, etc.

**437 Social and Psychological Aspects of Death and Dying (2 or 4, FaSp)** Introduction and critical survey of the current issues, concepts, and research of the social and psychological aspects of death and dying.

**440 Biodemography of Aging (4, Sp)** Consideration of the biological and social-cultural factors that govern the evolution of life spans and the life of humans and selected animal models. *Prerequisite:* BISC 120L; *recommended preparation:* statistics.

**451 Policy and Program Development in Aging (4, Fa)** Policy trends and changing roles of local, state, and federal agencies in planning, managing, and evaluating programs in comprehensive, coordinated systems of service for older persons.

**452 Economic Issues and the Aged (2 or 4, Sp)** Analysis of economic factors associated with the aged; implications for individuals, society, and the economy; life-cycle economics, retirement, income maintenance, and social security.

**470 Aging and Business (4, Fa)** An introduction to the dynamic roles of business in an aging society focusing on workplace issues, marketing to mature consumers, and careers for business gerontologists.

**475 Ethical Issues in Geriatric Health Care (4)** Biomedical ethical issues that are encountered in working with geriatric patients. Examination of ethical theory and the application of theory to clinical settings.

**481 Case Management for Older Adults (4, Fa)** Overview of the concepts, characteristics, skills, and clinical issues of case management in a variety of settings serving older persons.

**490x Directed Research (2-8, max 8)** Individual research and readings. Not available for graduate credit. *Prerequisite:* departmental approval.

**491 Gerontology Practicum (2-8, max 8, FaSpSm)** Supervised experience in one or more community agencies that serve older adults. Graded CR/NC.

**492 Senior Seminar in Aging (4, Fa)** An in-depth integration of major themes in scientific and professional gerontology, leading to the preparation of the senior paper.

**495 Practicum in Geriatric Care (4, FaSpSm)**

Supervised experience in a geriatric health care setting which allows students to put theories and ideas into practice. Graded CR/NC. Lecture, discussion, and field work.

**496 Introduction to Clinical Geriatrics (4)**

Medical problems of older adults emphasizing common geriatric syndromes, chronic illness, and alternative approaches to primary health care of older persons and their families. Upper division standing. *Prerequisite:* BISC 220L or BISC 221L.

**497abc Honors Seminar (2, 2, 2-4, FaSpSm)**

Advanced study of empirical approaches in gerontology. Preparation, progress, presentation, and evaluation of Senior Honors Thesis research. *Prerequisite:* standing in Gerontology Honors Program.

**499 Special Topics (2-4, max 8, FaSpSm)**

Examination of special topics in the area of gerontology.

**500 Perspectives on Aging: An Introduction (4)**

A web based course analyzing physical, mental, and social age-related changes as well as implications of population aging trends for individuals and society.

**510 Physiology of Development and Aging (4, Sp)**

Examination of lifespan physiology of human development, growth, and aging; major emphasis in the physiology of the later years and implications for health maintenance.

**513 Stress, Health, and Aging (2 or 4)**

A presentation of the importance of controlling stressful interaction. Aging is accelerated by stress induced disorders of regulation such as high blood pressure and arteriosclerosis.

**519 Biological Processes and Aging (2 or 4)**

Theories of the biology of aging and the effects of age on functional integrity of the total organism.

**520 Life Span Developmental Psychology (2 or 4, FaSpSm)**

Behavior from adulthood to old age; study of major components of behavior such as perception, cognitive processes, personality, intergenerational relationships, sexuality, and life styles.

**522 Counseling Older Adults and Their Families (2 or 4, Sp)**

Theory and application of assessment and intervention techniques with older adults and their families. Topics include: treatment modalities, psychopathology, ethical and legal issues, brain disorders.

**529 Seminar in Psychological Aspects of Aging (2 or 4)**

Psychological changes in the later years; perception; sensory factors; intelligence and memory; psychophysiological measures; personality; psychopathology.

**530 Life Span Developmental Sociology (4, Sp)**

Life span perspective on the sociological theories of marriage and the family, intergenerational relationships, work and retirement, and other forms of social organization.

**540 Social Policy and Aging (4, Fa)**

Major legislation and programs; examination and analysis of policy-making and political processes affecting development and implementation of programs for older persons.

**543 Continuum of Care: Systems Perspective (4)**

Structural and organizational aspects of institutional and community programs; public policies, fiscal management, regulation, administration; obstacles to interagency coordination; the continuum of care.

**550 Administration and System Management in Programs for Older Adults (4, Sp)**

Application of theories of administration and system management to public and volunteer programs and services for older adults including residential institutions and community programs.

**551 Applied Policy Skills in Aging (4, Sp)**

An overview and application of techniques and approaches used in the definition and analysis of policy problems in aging. *Prerequisite:* GERO 540.

**552 Advanced Policy Seminar in Aging (4, Fa)**

Through an intensive seminar experience, students explore the policy making process in aging from the perspectives of decision makers in public and private sectors. *Prerequisite:* GERO 551.

**554 Program Evaluation (2 or 4)**

Development of criteria for evaluating federal, state, and local policy planning and service delivery in aging.

**555 Integrating Gerontology: A Multidisciplinary Approach (4, Sp)**

Aging (commonalities and distinctions) as addressed by biologists, psychologists, and sociologists. Topics include research perspectives, normative aging, functional decline and disability, and aging and society.

**556 Program Development (2 or 4)**

Principles and procedures of assessing needs, collecting resources, designing activities, and implementing programs for older people in a variety of community and institutional settings.

**560 Complementary Medicine for Health and Longevity (4, Sp)**

Alternative healing practices and complementary medicine including Eastern medicine, herbal therapies, vitamin and dietary supplements for general health and specific issues in aging. Open to graduate students or undergraduate students with senior standing for undergraduate credit. *Recommended preparation:* GERO 500.

**570 Corporate Policies and Aging (4, Sp)**

An introduction to the evolving roles of corporations in an aging society including such topics as retaining older workers, retiree benefits, and the mature consumer.

**585 The Aging Family (2 or 4, Sm)**

Family processes and structure in families with aged persons will be reviewed, including marital and family therapy and intervention strategies.

**589 Professional Issues in Gerontology (4, Fa)**

An introduction to the concepts, attitudes, values, knowledge, skills, and ethical issues upon which professional practice in gerontology is based.

**590 Directed Research (1-12, FaSpSm)**

Research leading to the master's degree. Maximum units which may be applied to the degree to be determined by the department. Graded CR/NC.

**591z Field Practicum (2-12, FaSpSm)**

Supervised experiential learning in one or more organizations that serve older adults; includes a regularly scheduled seminar. Graded IP/CR/NC.

**592 Multidisciplinary Research Seminar in Aging (2, max 8, FaSp)**

Multidisciplinary perspectives on current research in gerontology, including physiology, neurobiology, health and medicine, psychology, sociology, and public policy. Topics will change each semester.

**593 Research Methods (4, Fa)**

An introduction to research methods and their application to gerontology including problem formation, research design, data collection, descriptive and analytic statistics, interpretation, and report preparation.

**594abz Master's Thesis (2-2-0, FaSpSm)**

Credit on acceptance of thesis. Graded IP/CR/NC.

**599 Special Topics (2-4, max 8, FaSpSm)**

Examination of special topics in the area of gerontological study.



*As part of a three-year interdisciplinary study, graduate students and researchers from gerontology, communication, social work and sociology are evaluating the Adult Technology Initiative.*

**610 The Aging Society (4, Sp)** The interaction of demographic and economic processes, with emphasis on how the contemporary nature of these interactions influence public policy response to an aging population.

**628 Theories of Aging (4)** An examination of the nature and adequacy of existing explanations of aging. Focus will be on psychological, sociological, and biological paradigms, and on the epistemology of theory.

**640 Data Analysis Strategies (4, Fa)** Hands-on experience in developing and testing hypotheses using various types of databases, data management and analysis strategies and written presentation of findings. *Prerequisite:* GERO 593.

**645 Politics and Policy Processes in an Aging Society (4, Fa)** Dynamics of the policy-making process in the context of aging policy in the United States; focus on the political system and its social dynamics.

**650ab Advanced Seminar in Policy and Aging (2-2, Fa)** Seminar topics will change each semester to reflect such policy areas as health, income-maintenance, mental health, and federal-state interactions.

**655 Economic Foundations of Aging Policy (4, Sp)** Economic consequences of population aging and the economic status of the aged; emphases include life-cycle economics and policies shaping retirement, income, and expenditure patterns.

**790 Research (1-12, FaSpSm)** Research leading to the doctorate. Maximum units which may be applied to the degree to be determined by the department. Graded CR/NC.

**794abcdz Doctoral Dissertation (2-2-2-2-0, FaSpSm)** Credit on acceptance of dissertation. Graded IP/CR/NC.