



University of Maryland University College

**Baccalaureate Degree Program in Gerontology
Department of Social, Behavioral, Natural, and Mathematical
Sciences**

**PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLAN
Program Outcomes and Learning Assessment Criteria**

Summer 2007

Baccalaureate Degree Program in Gerontology

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Gerontology major is designed for students interested in the implementation and management of health and human service programs in gerontology. The program combines a foundation in the psychological and physical aspects of aging with an understanding of programs, services, and policies related to aging and older adults. The Gerontology program prepares graduates for careers focusing on the needs of older adults in business, health and human services, research, government, education, and policy. The program also prepares students for potential graduate study in gerontology, health and allied professions, psychology, sociology, public administration, or health and public policy.

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PROGRAM OF STUDY

The program of study for the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Gerontology is as follows:

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Communications	12 credit hours
Arts and Humanities	6 credit hours
Behavioral and Social Sciences	6 credit hours
Biological and Physical Sciences	7 credit hours
Mathematics	3 credit hours
Interdisciplinary or Emerging Issues	7 credit hours

CROSS-CURRICULAR PERSPECTIVE REQUIREMENTS

Historical Perspective	3 credit hours
International Perspective	3 credit hours
Civic Responsibility Perspective	3 credit hours

REQUIRED COURSES

ANTH 344	Cultural Anthropology and Linguistics or	3 credit hours
SPCH 482	Intercultural Communication	
GERO 301	Service/Program Management	3 credit hours
GERO 306	Programs, Services, and Policies	3 credit hours
ENGL 391/391X	Advanced Expository and Research Writing	3 credit hours
GERO 338	Health Promotion in Older Adults or GERO 391, GERO 350, GERO 355, GERO 380, GERO 460	

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PROGRAM OF STUDY (continued)

GERO 311	Women and Aging or	3 credit hours
GERO 410	Cross-Cultural Perspectives of Aging or Any GERO course or Other supplemental course	
GERO 327	Ethnicity and Aging or Any GERO course or Other supplemental major course	3 credit hours
GERO 486A	Internship in Gerontology Through Co-op	3 credit hours
<u>MINOR AND ELECTIVE COURSES</u>		46 credit hours

Minor and/or elective courses are to be taken in the last 60 hours along with required major courses. Refer to the current UMUC School of Undergraduate Studies Catalog for the minor and/or elective course requirements.

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DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The table below identifies the curricular influences that support the program outcomes specific to the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Gerontology.

SOURCES/RESOURCES PROVIDING CURRICULAR FOUNDATION FOR PROGRAM OUTCOMES		
Baccalaureate Degree Program in Gerontology		
SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	WEB ADDRESS OR DOCUMENT NAME (if applicable)
Core Learning Areas of the UMUC School of Undergraduate Studies	<p>All UMUC degree programs are required to imbed identified Core Learning Areas into the program of study. The Core Learning Areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Communication (COMM) • Technology Fluency (TECH) • Information Literacy (INFO) • Quantitative Literacy (QUAN) • Critical Thinking (THIN) • Scientific Literacy (SCIE) <p>The expanded definition for each Core Learning Area was considered in creating the respective program outcome.</p>	UMUC <u>Institutional Plan for the Assessment of Student Learning</u>
Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE)	AGHE is a membership organization for colleges and universities that offer education, training, and research programs in the field of aging. The purpose of AGHE is to foster the commitment of higher education to the field of aging through education, research, and public service	<u>www.aghe.org</u>

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PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The program outcomes specific to the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Gerontology are delineated below. The program outcomes describe the expectations for all graduates of the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Gerontology.

CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES Baccalaureate Degree Program in Gerontology
	Upon completion of the Baccalaureate Degree in Gerontology, graduates will be able to:
COMM	Create written communication appropriate for the purpose and which meets standards of style and grammatical correctness.+
	Use effective written communication to clearly express the concept of aging and how age is defined chronologically, functionally, socially and psychologically.*
TECH	Evaluate technological concepts related to computers and components of information systems.+
	Use internet resources and word processing software packages to navigate research databases, generate professional quality written documents, and monitor originality of work.*
INFO	Address recognized research needs by retrieving, evaluating, and using information appropriately.+
	Utilize library databases to locate current journal articles on topics in aging.*
QUAN	Apply mathematical and numerical reasoning skills.+
	Apply principles of inferential statistics within the field of gerontology.*
THIN	Demonstrate a critical and analytical understanding of social and aging theories.*
SCIE	Identify key concepts and principles of natural sciences.+
	Demonstrate the utility of experimental design within the field of gerontology.*

+ Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of the general education requirements. This program outcome is common across all UMUC baccalaureate degree programs.

* Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of requirements in the baccalaureate degree program. This program outcome is unique to each UMUC baccalaureate degree program.

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ALIGNMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES WITH LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

The following grid aligns the program outcomes of the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Gerontology with: 1) learning objectives from the designated program coursework and 2) specific methods used to assess student learning within the degree program.

ALIGNMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES WITH LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT METHODS			
Baccalaureate Degree Program in Gerontology			
CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES	LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK	METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT
COMM	Create written communication appropriate for the purpose and which meets standards of style and grammatical correctness.+	Plan and write a research-based essay that makes effective use of resources found in databases available from UMUC's Office of Information and Library Services as well as resources located through Web search engines. (WRTG 101)	Research Paper
		Research, compile, and document relevant, credible information and use it to support ideas presented in your writing. (WRTG 393)	Research Paper
		Collect, select, analyze, interpret, and organize data, and use it appropriately in business communications, including a long formal report. (WRTG 394)	Research Paper
		Conduct a systematic audience analysis and apply it to a report, essay, or research paper. (WRTG 391)	Research Paper
	Use effective written communication to clearly express the concept of aging and how age is defined chronologically, functionally, socially and psychologically.*	Explain the concept of aging and how age is defined chronologically, functionally, socially and psychologically. (GERO 100)	Research Paper

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ALIGNMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES WITH LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT METHODS			
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CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES	LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK	METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT
TECH	Evaluate technological concepts related to computers and components of information systems. +	Analyze issues faced by information system professionals, including security, ethical, and privacy problems. (IFSM 201)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Use internet resources and word processing software packages to navigate research databases, generate professional quality written documents, and monitor originality of work.*	Evaluate important social and health care policies and programs affecting older adults. (GERO 100)	Research Paper
INFO	Address recognized research needs by retrieving, evaluating, and using information appropriately.+	Select relevant print and electronic sources to answer research questions. (LIBS 150)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Utilize library databases to locate current journal articles on topics in aging.*	Write a research paper based on information gathered from a library database or other information sources to evaluate important social and health care policies and programs affective older adults. (GERO 100)	Research Paper
QUAN	Apply mathematical and numerical reasoning skills.+	Solve linear, quadratic, higher-order polynomial, fractional, radical, exponential, logarithmic, and absolute value equations and inequalities. (MATH 107)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
		Develop problem solving skills. (MATH 105 or MATH 106)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Apply principles of inferential statistics within the field of gerontology.*	Identify and perform inferential statistical procedures. (GERO 100)	Project (Chapter/Course)
THIN	Demonstrate a critical and analytical understanding of social and aging theories.*	Analyze social theories and social aspects of aging. (GERO 100)	Individual Report/Paper

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ALIGNMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES WITH LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT METHODS			
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CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES	LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK	METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT
SCIE	Identify key concepts and principles of natural sciences.+	Recognize the differences and the interrelationships among physics, chemistry, the earth sciences, and astronomy. (NSCI 100)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
		Explain the significance of DNA in determining the composition, characteristics, reproduction, and behavior of an organism. (BIOL 101)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Demonstrate the utility of experimental design within the field of gerontology.*	Illustrate the necessity for experimental design. (PSYC200/STAT225)	Conference

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