



## Department of Human Development & Family Studies

### Master's Degree in Gerontology (MA and Online Only)

The master's program (MA only) is designed to prepare professionals who are either working directly with older people or are involved in education and research related to the elderly. Professionals offering direct services often are involved in health promotion programs; directing intergenerational activities; managing senior centers or retirement communities; counseling older people and their families; and helping people plan for retirement.

Professionals involved in education and research may evaluate community-based services; teach others about the aging process; develop policies and programs to serve the needs of the elderly; work with business and industry on issues related to an aging work force; and consumer education.

#### **Employment Outlook**

The gerontology field offers challenging and rewarding careers in an area that is growing rapidly, that needs people with a broad range of skills, and that will improve people's lives. We live in an aging society, one in which the older population is growing both in absolute numbers and in proportion to all other age groups. Businesses, government agencies, service organizations, educational institutions, and self-employed professionals from every economic sector are recognizing the need for specialized knowledge and skills to meet the needs of this changing demography.

#### **Courses are Selected From (36 hours minimum):**

##### Required:

HDFS 7252: Adult Development  
HDFS 7255: Economics, Public Policy, and Aging  
HDFS 7256: Environments and Aging  
HDFS 7257: Aging in the Family  
HDFS 8251: Perspectives in Gerontology  
HDFS 8253: Physical Health in Aging

##### Required, continued:

HDFS 8254: Gerontology Research Methods and Program Evaluation  
HDFS 8258: Professional Seminar in Gerontology

##### Electives:

HDFS 7259: Mental Health & Aging  
HDFS 7260: Women and Aging  
HDFS 7261: Biological Principles of Aging  
HDFS 8972: Internship

#### **Upon successful completion of the Gerontology program the student will be able to:**

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of specific issues regarding adult development, family systems, health and nutrition, public policy, the environment, and research as related to older adults and their families.
- Apply research findings and skills to solve problems related to older adults and their families.
- Synthesize critical issues related to aging from a multidisciplinary perspective.