

University of South Carolina

Certificate of Graduate Study in

Aging



The Certificate of Graduate Study in Aging addresses the educational needs of full-time and part-time students who will be engaged in work with older adults. Students who are earning master's or doctoral degrees in related disciplines can obtain specialized preparation for career paths in the expanding field of aging services. Given the increasing number of older adults today, professionals require current knowledge about the biological, health, psychosocial, economic, administrative, service delivery, and social policy aspects of aging.

The certificate of aging is located in the Arnold School of Public Health and planned and administered by the Dept. of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior. Committed to excellence, the certificate has been developed according to the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education standards & guidelines.

Why Study Aging?

Are you ready for a career in aging? Then the Certificate of Graduate Study in Aging may be the right fit for you. This post-bachelor's program combines health promotion, social work, and long-term care experiences to prepare you for a job in this field.

The overarching goal of the certificate is to prepare students for competent and compassionate practice in order to promote the health and well-being of, and improve quality of life for, older adults. Students learn to assess a variety of domains (e.g., functional and cognitive status, health literacy), apply health promotion and social work theories, and develop interventions for older adults. Graduates of our program are employed as experts at long-term care facilities or public and not-for-profit agencies, as service providers, and as researchers and professors in academic settings.

Certificate Description

The graduate certificate in aging program provides graduate students and professionals with rich opportunities to learn from aging experts across multiple disciplines at the University of South Carolina.

The interdisciplinary certificate is granted upon completion of a structured program of 18 credit hours of graduate-level courses. Each student's program must include at least 9 credit hours of required courses. At least 9 of the total 18 credit hours must be earned in courses at the 700 level or above. All students are assigned an academic advisor who provides assistance in constructing an individualized program of study.

Program Requirements

To earn the certificate, students must complete:

1. A core of nine hours including:
 - HPEB 731: Health Promotion for Older Adults
 - SOWK 772: Programs and Services for Older Adults
 - HSPM 764: Long-Term Care Administration
2. Six hours of directed electives, depending on the student's interests. Some potential topics include:
 - Social determinants of health
 - Health communication
 - Motivational interviewing
 - Social and health policy
 - Behavioral economics
3. A three-hour practicum or project. Some examples include working with health agencies or conducting research.

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How to Apply

Persons who are interested are invited to contact us for further information. They may also find information on the UofSC Graduate School website under "Certificate of Graduate Study in Aging" as the degree. To apply, go directly to: https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/graduate_school/apply/degree_programs-application-requirements/aging-cgs/index.php.

Admission Criteria

All persons who are wishing to enroll in the certificate of aging program must apply for admission to the University of South Carolina Graduate School. Both currently enrolled graduate students and potential students should refer to these admission requirements:

1. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. A minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.00 scale) or a GPA of 3.5 for the last two years of undergraduate work.
2. A résumé describing past professional experience, especially as it pertains to aging.
3. A personal statement of purpose for seeking the certificate of aging that describes why you want to study aging and outlines future career goals.
4. Scores on the GRE (Graduate Record Examination), with a minimum of a combined GRE score of 300 (e.g., 153 verbal and 147 quantitative)

and a 4.0 analytical writing score. In certain cases, other information may be accepted in lieu of GRE scores.

5. EFL or IELTS scores are required for those whose native language is not English.
6. Official transcripts from ALL institutions previously attended; non-US institution transcripts must be verified by World Education Services or equivalent service.
7. Letters of recommendation from academic/professional sources.

If you are not already studying for a graduate degree, the certificate can be a stand-alone program.



Arnold School of Public Health



UofSC in Focus

For 200 years, the University of South Carolina has distinguished itself as a center of learning, leadership, and services in higher education. UofSC offers a diverse and talented student population, a dedicated and successful faculty, a highly regarded library, outstanding research programs, and a campus that has been named one of the most beautiful in America. Visit our website at www.sc.edu.

UofSC does not discriminate in educational or employment opportunities or decisions for qualified persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Contact us

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