

Gerontology - Aging Services Professional

10-544-1 Associate Degree (two-year)

Financial Aid Eligible

Campuses: Ashland*, New Richmond*, Rice Lake*, Superior*
Outreach Centers: Balsam Lake*, Hayward*, Ladysmith*

*Combination of Online and Your Choice instruction. Select courses are available at the WITC Outreach Centers. Please contact your local campus for specifics.



Program Overview

You will acquire comprehensive and interdisciplinary training to prepare you to work with older adults in a variety of positions and in diverse settings such as community, non-profit and government agencies, counseling centers, adult care, memory care, senior centers, home health care, assisted living, long-term care, nursing homes, group homes, hospitals, hospice, and business and industry. This innovative and flexible program blends online and in-person experiential learning with community-based fieldwork and is designed to fit into busy life schedules. You can choose part-time or full-time program options and mix and match coursework.

Special Features

- Flexible course selection and scheduling designed to assist with life planning
- 8 week rotating block courses offered in Online and Your Choice evening formats
- Part-time and full-time program options with flexible entry and exit
- Ideal for people entering the job market or choosing to enhance their current careers in service delivery or leadership roles within the gerontology field
- Blend program offerings with Healthcare, Emergency Services, Human Services, or Business Programs

Admission Requirements

- Complete application form and submit with fee (fee waiver may apply if previously submitted)
- Review and sign Functional Abilities Disclosure
- Review and sign Background Check Disclosure
- Complete admissions meeting with a WITC counselor

Program-Specific Requirement

- Complete and sign Background Information Disclosure Form (BID)
- Submit Background Check fee
- Have an acceptable Wisconsin Caregiver Background Check and/or Minnesota Caregiver Background Check as applicable
- Information from the Caregiver Background Check may affect ability to secure fieldwork placement and the ability to find employment after graduation

Program Outcomes

Gerontology - Aging Services Professional graduates will be able to:

- Evaluate the physical, social, psychological, and spiritual aspects of aging throughout the lifespan
- Exhibit ethical and legal practice consistent with a gerontology professional
- Distinguish the role of the gerontology professional in the coordination of service delivery
- Cultivate an age-friendly community

Career Outlook

Gerontology - Aging Services Professional program graduates will be well prepared to use their knowledge, skills and abilities working with older adults in a variety of positions in diverse settings such as:

- Community, Non-Profit and Government Agencies
- Counseling Centers
- Adult Care
- Senior Centers
- Home Health Care and Assisted Living
- Long-term Care, Nursing Homes and Group Homes
- Hospitals
- Hospice
- Business and Industry

Potential Job Titles:

- Aging Services Provider
- Advocacy Specialist
- Geriatric Care Specialist
- Dementia Care Specialist/Provider
- Benefits Coordinator
- Client Navigation Specialist
- Activity/Recreation Coordinator
- Housing/Transportation Specialist
- Program Planner
- Private Service Provider/Small Business Owner

Career Pathways

The Gerontology - Aging Services Professional program includes the following pathway certificate options (page 205):

- Gerontology for Healthcare Professionals
- Dementia Care

Related Programs

- Nursing-Associate Degree
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Paramedic Technician
- EMT-Paramedic
- Human Services Associate
- Criminal Justice Studies
- Nonprofit Leadership
- Medical Assistant
- Nursing Assistant

Curriculum

Number	Course Title	Credits (cr.)
Technical Studies Courses		
10520103	Ethics in Human Services * #	3 cr.
10520112	Family Systems	3 cr.
10544100	Communication of Aging	3 cr.
10544101	Social Gerontology	3 cr.
10544102	Psychological Aspects of Aging	3 cr.
10544104	Physical Aspects of Aging	3 cr.
10544105	Alzheimer's and Dementia	3 cr.
10544106	Healthy Aging	3 cr.
10544107	Death and Dying	3 cr.
10544108	Developing the Gerontology Professional *#	3 cr.
10544112	Gerontology Fieldwork *#	3 cr.
10544110	Programs of Aging Services	3 cr.
10544111	Legal and Financial Issues of Aging	3 cr.
Technical Studies Total:		39 cr.

General Studies Courses **

10801136	English Composition 1	3 cr.
10801198	Speech or	
10801196	Oral/Interpersonal Communication	3 cr.
10806198	Human Biology or	
10806177	General Anatomy and Physiology	4 cr.
10809159	Abnormal Psychology *	3 cr.
10809172	Introduction to Diversity Studies	3 cr.
10809198	Introduction to Psychology	3 cr.
General Studies Total:		19 cr.

ELECTIVES 3 cr.

TOTAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS 61 cr.

* Requires a prerequisite and/or corequisite that must be completed with a grade point of 2.0 or better.

** See pages 29-31 for course descriptions.

Credit for prior learning not applicable for these courses.

You must earn a grade point of 2.0 or better in all 105XXXXX courses.

Curriculum Pending WTCS Approval

Course Descriptions

(See pages 29-31 for General Studies course descriptions)

10520103

Ethics in Human Services - Credits: 3

This course explores the ethical, legal, and professional issues facing the human services worker. It is designed to teach a process of ethical decision-making and to increase awareness of the complexities in practice. Students are introduced to the current state and federal statutes, regulations, and judicial decisions that govern the professional practice in human services. Standards, code of ethics, clients' rights, and confidentiality are emphasized.

10520112

Family Systems - Credits: 3

This course focuses on issues related to families and family functioning relevant to the human services field. Major areas of focus will include child maltreatment, domestic violence, and addiction, with emphasis on relevant helping skills and services.

10544100

Communication of Aging - Credits: 3

Develop effective communication strategies and supportive interview techniques that enhance rapport and relationships with aging populations. Apply ethical principles, standards and boundaries that acknowledge self-determination.

10544101

Social Gerontology - Credits: 3

Explore aging in respect to social roles and processes. Topics include history of aging, demographics, family relationships, social supports, economics, retirement, loss, poverty and politics of aging.

10544102

Psychological Aspects of Aging - Credits: 3

Recognize how experience and history affect the value and societal expectations of each generation. Understand diversity among older adults including, but not limited to, race; ethnicity; culture; sexual orientation; and physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities.

10544104

Physical Aspects of Aging - Credits: 3

Analyze normal and pathological changes occurring in the aging human body with special emphasis on age-related chronic diseases. Topics addressed include analysis of biological theories of aging, cultural/ethnic influence on aging pathologies, and other factors impacting the aging process.

10544105

Alzheimer's and Dementia - Credits: 3

Examine the signs, symptoms and stages of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia and how these diseases affect physiology and brain function. This course focuses on the principles of communicating and providing care to individuals with memory loss and confusion while learning the best practices for dealing with behavior changes, challenges with the activities of daily living, and strategies to assist caregivers.

10544106

Healthy Aging - Credits: 3

Investigate practices that promote healthy aging including nutrition, physical activity, prevention practices, and commonly prescribed medications for the older adult. Emphasis will focus on the "well" elderly population and practices identified to address current aging trends.

10544107

Death and Dying - Credits: 3

Explore societal, cultural, and personal views of death, dying, and bereavement. Examine losses experienced during the course of aging beyond the physical and emotional process of death and dying. Determine strategies for healthy transitions in coping with loss.

10544108

Developing the Gerontology Professional - Credits: 3

Examine the various roles of the aging services professional and the contexts in which they work. Apply relationship building, communication, ethical standards, self-care planning and practices, documentation, and other related skills to case studies and real life situations. Function as an interdisciplinary team member addressing the complex needs of aging adults. PREREQUISITE: 10520103 Ethics in Human Services and successful completion of 15 credits of 105201XX or 105441XX coursework.

10544112

Gerontology Fieldwork - Credits: 3

Examine the scope, values, and principles of the gerontology profession. Coursework introduces the typical roles and duties of aging services professionals. Students assess their own motivations, attitudes, and interests. In addition to the regular classroom hours, observation and fieldwork in a community-based setting working with older adults is required. Students must complete or have on file current, valid Background Information Disclosure (BID) and Caregiver Background Check (Wisconsin and/or Minnesota) forms, as part of this course. PREREQUISITE: 10544108 Developing the Gerontology Professional and COREQUISITES: Successful completion or co-enrollment in all other core program courses.

10544110

Programs of Aging Services - Credits: 3

Explore the wide spectrum of programs and services available to older adults that address a variety of physical, mental, emotional, social, financial, legal, spiritual, and recreational needs. Examine social policy as it relates to aging and available federal funding for the aging consumer including community resources, eligibility criteria, and how to access and coordinate services. Additional topics include supplementing social networking and enhancing mental health functioning.

10544111

Legal and Financial Issues of Aging - Credits: 3

Analyze legal and financial concepts and structures including Power of Attorney for health care/finance, guardianships, trusts, reallocation of assets, spending down, Medicare/Medicaid benefits, supplemental insurance, Social Security, elder abuse/neglect, financial exploitation, and relevant governmental policies. Apply knowledge through advocacy to benefit aging adults on local, state and federal levels.

Gerontology for Healthcare Professionals

61-544-1 Pathway Certificate

Campuses: Ashland*, New Richmond*, Rice Lake*, Superior*
Outreach Centers: Balsam Lake*, Hayward*, Ladysmith*

*Combination of Online and Your Choice instruction



Overview

You will be able to directly apply your acquired theory, knowledge and practical skills within a variety of professional settings. This pathway certificate is designed to enhance the education and experience of practitioners who work directly with older adults in healthcare and clinical settings, community-based programs, residential facilities, and private or for-profit business and industry.

Special Features

- Flexible course selection and scheduling designed to assist with life planning
- 8-week rotating block courses offered in Online and Your Choice evening formats
- Part-time and full-time program options with flexible entry and exit
- Ideal for people entering the job market or choosing to enhance their current careers in service delivery or leadership roles within the gerontology field
- Blend program offerings with Healthcare, Emergency Services, Human Services, or Business Programs
- This is a unique program in the state

How to Apply

Complete the online application or contact Student Services. When completing an online application, select the Gerontology for Healthcare Professionals certificate from the program of choice dropdown list.

Outcomes

The Gerontology for Healthcare Professionals certificate will prepare you to:

- Analyze the physical, social, psychological, and spiritual aspects of aging throughout the lifespan
- Apply ethical and legal practice consistent with a gerontology professional
- Identify the role of the gerontology professional in the connection of service delivery
- Identify strategies to cultivate an age-friendly community

Career Outlook

Upon completion of the Gerontology for Healthcare Professionals certificate you will be well prepared to use your knowledge, skills and abilities to work with older adults in a variety of positions in diverse settings such as:

- Hospitals
- Hospice
- Home Health Care and Assisted Living
- Long-Term Care, Nursing Homes and Group Homes
- Adult Care
- Senior Centers
- Community, Non-Profit and Government Agencies
- Counseling Centers
- Business and Industry

Career Pathway ➤

The Gerontology for Healthcare Professionals program is a pathway into the following program (page 205):

- Gerontology - Aging Services Professional

Related Programs

- Human Services Associate
- Nursing - Associate Degree
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- Paramedic Technician
- EMT-Paramedic
- Nursing Assistant
- Dementia Care

Curriculum

Number	Course Title	Credits
10544101	Social Gerontology	3
10544105	Alzheimer's and Dementia	3
10544110	Programs of Aging Services	3
10544100	Communication of Aging	3
CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS		12

Course Descriptions

10544101

Social Gerontology - Credits: 3

Explore aging in respect to social roles and processes. Topics include history of aging, demographics, family relationships, social supports, economics, retirement, loss, poverty and politics of aging.

10544105

Alzheimer's and Dementia - Credits: 3

Examine the signs, symptoms and stages of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia and how these diseases affect physiology and brain function. This course focuses on the principles of communicating and providing care to individuals with memory loss and confusion while learning the best practices for dealing with behavior changes, challenges with the activities of daily living, and strategies to assist caregivers.

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