

# GERONTOLOGIST

Gerontology is the social, physical, and psychological study of aging. Gerontologists are professionals that hold a degree in gerontology and work with older adults. There is a diverse array of professions underneath the umbrella term of gerontology. Examples of these professions are as follows: geriatric medicine, academia, research professionals, geriatric social workers, life enrichment professionals, recreation therapists, personal care aids, hospice care workers, and even facility directors.

## CAREER DESCRIPTION\*

- » National median salary: \$41,600 - \$94,500+
- » National projected career growth: 9% or higher
- » Three types: research gerontologist, applied gerontologist, and administrative gerontologist
- » Many work in long term care settings, hospitals, and public health offices

## TYPICAL EDUCATION\*\*

- » Years of School (including undergraduate): varies by degree/certificate options
- » Geriatric social workers often have a bachelor's in social work and either a double major in gerontology or a certificate or minor in gerontology.

## NEARBY SCHOOLS

- » University of Nebraska at Omaha
  - B.S., M.A., & Ph.D.
  - Minor
  - Undergraduate or graduate certificate
- » Iowa State University

## COMPETITIVE STUDENTS ALWAYS...

- » Gain hands on experience through a gerontology internship
- » Volunteer

## WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL SAY



I am still not sure what type of doctor I want to be when I complete medical school, but I do know that I enjoy working with older adults. The knowledge and skills that I gained from my minor in gerontology helped me get accepted into this program at UNMC and will help me be a more knowledgeable doctor."

-Austin Wilson

## CAREER OPTIONS & REQUIRED DEGREE

- » Geriatrician (MD, residency, fellowship)
- » Professor (PhD, postdoctoral fellowship)
- » Geriatric Social Worker (Master's Degree)
- » Life Enrichment Professional (Bachelor's Degree)
- » Personal Care Aide (On-the-job Training - State Certification)
- » Facility Director (Bachelor's Degree; Administrator in Training program)

UNO Health Careers Resource Center  
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[cas.unomaha.edu/hcrc](http://cas.unomaha.edu/hcrc)

\*Data and information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

\*\*Data and information from UNO

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Click here for requirements from the schools listed below:

[University of Nebraska at Omaha](#)

[Iowa State University](#)

\*Prerequisites vary by program. Students are responsible for ensuring all entrance requirements are met.

### UNO's Prerequisites

S = Spring, F = Fall, M = Summer

All students majoring in Gerontology will obtain 120 credit hours with either a concentration or approved minor.

Gerontology Major (42 credits)			
Course	Credits	Semester	Prerequisites
GERO 2000 Introduction to Gerontology	3	F, S, M	
GERO 3000 Community Resources for Older Adults	3	F, S	GERO 2000
<b>OR</b>			
GERO 4670 Programs and Services for the Elderly	3	F, S, M	Junior or Senior
GERO 3070 Death & Dying	3	F, S	
GERO 3250 Research Methods in Gerontology	3	S	
GERO 3500 Biological Principles of Aging	3	F, S, M	Sophomore, Junior, or Senior
GERO 4460 Adult Development & Aging	3	F, S, M	Junior or Senior
GERO 4470 Mental Health Aspects of Aging	3	F, S, M	Junior or Senior
GERO 4550 Health Aspects of Aging	3	F, S, M	
GERO 4690 Working with Minority Elderly	3	S, M	
Three Gerontology Electives	9		
Gerontology Practicum - 156 hours in a practicum site of choice	3	F, S, M	
Statistics of choice	3		
Area of Concentration or Minor	18		

Gerontology Minor (18 credits)			
GERO 2000 Introduction to Gerontology	3	F, S, M	
GERO 3000 Community Resources for Older Adults	3	F, S	GERO 2000
<b>OR</b>			
GERO 4670 Programs and Services for the Elderly	3	F, S, M	Junior or Senior
Four additional courses of choice - GERO 3500 and 4050 are strongly recommended	12		

Gerontology Certificate (18 Credits)			
GERO 2000 Introduction to Gerontology *Recommended	3	F, S, M	
GERO 4460 Adult Development & Aging *Recommended	3	F, S, M	Junior or Senior
GERO 4670 Programs and Services for the Elderly *Recommended	3	F, S, M	Junior or Senior
GERO 4050 Advanced Biology of Aging *Recommended	3	F, S, M	
GERO 4940 Practicum *Required	3	F, S, M	9 hours of GERO and a 2.5 GPA
1 additional GERO course of choice	3	F, S, M	

\*The certificate is ideal for someone wanting to go into health care.