

# 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  
307 Allwine Hall | 402.554.5980  
[unohealthcareers@unomaha.edu](mailto:unohealthcareers@unomaha.edu)  
[cas.unomaha.edu/hcrc](http://cas.unomaha.edu/hcrc)

\*Data and information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

\*\*Data and information from UNO

Last update: 9.2025

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its education programs or activities, including admissions and employment.

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 (45 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 4440 Sociology of Aging	3	F	
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 3500 Biological Principles of Aging *Recommended	3	F, S, M	Sophomore/Junior/Senior Standing
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.