I HEALTH CAREERS RESOURCE CENTER

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



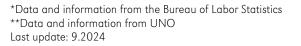
I am still not sure what type of doctor I want to be when I complete medical school, but I do know that I enjoy working with older adults. The knowledge and skills that I gained from my minor in gerontology helped me get accepted into this program at UNMC and will help me be a more knowledgeable doctor."

-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 <u>unohealthcareers@unomaha.edu</u> <u>cas.unomaha.edu/hcrc</u>



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University of Nebraska at Omaha lowa Sta	te University
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*Prerequisites vary by program. Students are responsible for ensuring all entrance requirements are met.

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UNO's Prerequisites

S = Spring, F = Fall, M = Summer

Course	Credits	Semester	Prerequisites				
Gerontology Major (42 credits)							
All students majoring in Gerontology will obtain 120 credit hours with either a concentration or approved minor.							

Course		Semester	Prerequisites
GERO 2000 Introduction to Gerontology		F, S, M	
GERO 3000 Community Resources for Older Adults		F, S	GERO 2000
OR			
GERO 4670 Programs and Services for the Elderly	3	F, S, M	Junior or Senior
GERO 3070 Death & Dying		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	3	F, S, M	
of choice			
Statistics of choice	3		
Area of Concentration or Minor	18		

Gerontology Minor (18 credits)				
GERO 2000 Introduction to Gerontology		F, S, M		
GERO 3000 Community Resources for Older Adults		F, S	GERO 2000	
OR				
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 Certicare (18 Credits)				
GERO 2000 Introduction to Gerontology	3	F, S, M		
*Recommended				
GERO 4460 Adult Development & Aging	3	F, S, M	Junior or Senior	
*Recommended				
GERO 4670 Programs and Services for the Elderly	3	F, S, M	Junior or Senior	
*Recommended				
GERO 4050 Advanced Biology of Aging	3	F, S, M		
*Recommended				
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.

