

# GERONTOLOGIST

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, and even facility directors.

## CAREER DESCRIPTION\*

- » National average salary: \$20,980 - \$94,500
- » National projected job growth: 12 - 26%
- » 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
- » 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 and Graduate Certificates
- » Iowa State University
  - Master of Family and Consumer Science – Gerontology Specialization

## COMPETITIVE APPLICANTS ALWAYS...

- » Gain hands on experience through a gerontology practicum or internship.
- » Volunteer

## 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)

## WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONALS 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



The Gerontology, Interior Design graduate certificate program from the University of Nebraska at Omaha allowed me to combine my desire to serve the aging community with my passion for interior design... When I graduate, I'm confident I'll not only be a more desirable candidate to architecture and design firms, but I'll also be well- equipped to serve aging and disabled populations, and that's what's most important."

-Emily Drummy

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\*Data and information from Study.com  
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Click here for requirements from the schools listed below:

<a href="#">University of Nebraska at Omaha</a>	<a href="#">Iowa State University</a>
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*Prerequisites vary by program. Students are responsible for ensuring all entrance requirements are met.*

**UNO's Requirements:**

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

<b>Gerontology Major Courses (42 credits)</b>		
<b>Course</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Prerequisites</b>
GERO 2000 – Introduction to Gerontology	3	None
GERO 3070 – Death & Dying	3	None
GERO 3500 – Biological Principles of Aging	3	None
GERO 4460 – Adult Development & Aging	3	Junior or Senior
GERO 4470 – Mental Health Aspects of Aging	3	Junior or Senior
GERO 4550 – Health Aspects of Aging	3	None
GERO 3000 – Community Resources for the Aging	3	Junior or Senior
GERO 4690 – Working with Minority Elderly	3	None
3 Gerontology Electives	9	
Gerontology Practicum – 156 hours in a practicum site of choice	3	
Statistics and Research Methods of choice	6	

<b>Gerontology Minor Courses (18 credits)</b>		
<b>Course</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Prerequisites</b>
GERO 2000 – Introduction to Gerontology	3	None
GERO 4460 – Adult Development & Aging	3	Junior or Senior
GERO 4670 – Programs and Services	3	Junior or Senior
GERO 4550 – Health Aspects of Aging *Recommended	3	None
2 additional courses of choice	6	

<b>Gerontology Certificate Courses (18 credits)</b>		
<b>Course</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Prerequisites</b>
GERO 2000 – Introduction to Gerontology *Recommended	3	None
GERO 4460 – Adult Development & Aging *Recommended	3	Junior or Senior
GERO 4670 – Programs and Services *Recommended	3	Junior or Senior
GERO 4550 – Health Aspects of Aging *Recommended	3	None
GERO 4940 – Practicum *Required	3	2.5 GPA
1 additional course of choice	3	

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