



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA GERONTOLOGY

Do You Have The Cour**AGE** to Care?

What Job and Career Opportunities Are Available?

Professionals in the field of aging work in a variety of settings. These include:

- Community, human services, and religious organizations
- Health care and long-term care institutions
- Federal, state, and local government agencies, including the aging network (the system of service delivery to older adults established by a federal law entitled the Older Americans Act)
- Schools (e.g. working with grandparents who are raising their grandchildren)
- Retirement communities
- Academic and other education and research settings
- Professional organizations
- Business and industry

Some professionals work directly with older adults. Their activities may include:

- Developing programs such as health promotion, senior theater groups, intergenerational activities and leisure and recreation for older adults
- Providing direct care to frail, ill, or impaired older adults in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and adult day care or home care programs
- Counseling older adults and their families about issues of caregiving, employment, death and dying, or mental health
- Advising older clients about estate planning and investments, financing long-term care, or housing opti

Other professionals are less directly involved with older adults, but work on their behalf, educate others, or investigate issues in the field of aging. Examples of their activities include:

- Conducting research on the aging process and diseases associated with aging, such as Alzheimer's disease or osteoporosis
- Analyzing issues related to older adults, such as retirement opportunities, income maintenance, the health care system, and housing alternatives

- Planning, administering, and evaluating community-based services and service delivery systems for older adults
- Teaching courses on aging to college and university students, health care professionals, and older adults
- Advocating with or on behalf of older adults before legislative bodies or in institutional settings
- Designing products to meet the special interests and needs of older persons
- Advising business, industry, and labor regarding older workers and consumers

Some professionals devote themselves full time to the field of aging; others divide their time between aging and other interests within their disciplinary, professional, or clinical areas.