

---

**School of Social Work****Combined M.S.W. and Graduate Certificate in Gerontology Curriculum**  
**M.S.W. Program – Portland Campus**

The M.S.W. curriculum is adapted in the following ways for students who are simultaneously pursuing both the M.S.W. and the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology:

- 1) For all: PHE 558 Perspectives in Aging is taken for 3 credits towards the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology. This course is offered in the fall and is considered the first course in the Certificate program. This course may be used as a free elective in the M.S.W. program of study, and is usually taken in the second year.
- 2) For certificate students in the Direct Human Services Practice concentration, SW 574 Social Work with Frail Older Adults must be taken. At present this course is usually offered in the fall term only. This course will satisfy the M.S.W. requirements for both a concentration approved advanced practice elective and an advanced research elective. It is also used to meet the course requirements for the Certificate program.
- 3) Certificate students in the Community-Based Practice concentration must also take SW 574 Social Work with Frail Older Adults. This course will satisfy the requirement for an advanced research elective.
- 4) For students in the Social Service Administration and Leadership concentration, USP 564 Political and Administrative Issues in Aging must be taken. This course is usually offered in the winter term, every other year. This course will count towards the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology and as a free elective for the M.S.W. program
- 5) Students in all concentrations are required to take SW 545 Advanced Human Behavior: Midlife and Beyond. This course is usually offered in the spring term and satisfies the requirement for an advanced HBSE elective for the DHS concentration and is a free elective for CBP and SSAL.
- 6) The Advanced Policy elective is taken from one of the following two courses: PHE 559 Economics of Aging, or PHE 557 National Long-term Care Policy. These courses are offered on alternate years; PHE 559 is usually offered in the winter and PHE 557 in the spring.
- 7) An additional elective is taken outside the School of Social Work that is approved by the Institute on Aging. An online list of electives that satisfy this requirement and a schedule of offerings are available through the Institute on Aging Web site. In addition, the Institute on Aging can determine whether other aging-specific courses may satisfy this requirement. This can be a 3-credit or a 4-credit class and satisfies elective requirements for both the Certificate and the M.S.W. The preferred course to meet this requirement is PHE 556 Health Aspects of Aging. It is offered in summer term and usually either winter or spring term. It may be taken during the summer between the first and second years of the M.S.W. program.

This is a partial list of electives that would satisfy this requirement:

- PHE 556 Health Aspects of Aging (4 credits)
  - USP 585 Housing Environments for the Elderly (offered in even-numbered years) (3 credits)
  - USP 564 Political and Administrative Issues in Aging (offered in odd-numbered years) (3 credits)
  - PHE 561 Cultural Variations in Aging (offered in even-numbered years) (3 credits)
  - SP 547 Communication and Aging (4 credits)
  - PSY 562 Psychology of Adult Development and Aging (4 credits)
  - SOC 569 Sociology of Aging (4 credits)
  - PHE 556 Health Aspects of Aging (4 credits)
  - PHE 560 Mental Health and Aging (offered in odd-numbered years) (3 credits)
  - PHE 510 Families and Aging (3 credits)
  - PHE 510 International Health and Aging: Focus on Nicaragua (3 credits)
- 8) Students must complete internships to meet the separate requirements of both programs. To satisfy both programs, the second year of field placement (and preferably both years) must take place in an agency serving primarily older adults. At a minimum, the second year of field placement must take place in an agency serving primarily older adults, and 3 credits of that field instruction are counted toward the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology. In addition students must register for one credit for the internship requirement, which is separate and distinct from any other course work that is taken. Students register for 1 credit of PHE 504 with their advisor in the Gerontology Certificate Program; usually this credit is taken in spring term.
- 9) Students entering the M.S.W. program who have obtained the Gerontology Certificate within the last five years can transfer 10-11 credits into the M.S.W. program. The courses that can be credited are PHE 558 Perspectives on Aging, PHE 556 Health Aspects of Aging and one other elective approved for the Certificate. Transferred credits are used to satisfy free elective requirements for the M.S.W. SW 545 Midlife and Beyond and SW 574 Social Work with Frail Older Adults taken for the Certificate cannot be counted towards the M.S.W. as they require prerequisite foundation courses.

**COURSE OF STUDY: JOINT M.S.W. AND GERONTOLOGY CERTIFICATE**

**First Year (46 credits)**

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>
SW 500 Field Instruction I (4 credits)	SW 500 Field Instruction II (4 credits)	SW 500 Field Instruction III (4 credits)	Outside Gerontology Elective: e.g., PHE 556 Health Aspects of Aging (4 credits) (or this course may be taken in the winter of the second year)
SW 530 Generalist Social Work Practice I (3 credits)	SW 531 Generalist Social Work Practice II (4 credits)	SW 532 Generalist Social Work Practice III (4 credits)	
SW 539 Social Justice in Social Work (3 credits)	SW 540 Human Behavior in the Social Environment: Micro Theory (3 credits)	SW 541 Human Behavior in the Social Environment: Macro Theory (3 credits)	
SW 520 Social Work and Social Welfare Policy (4 credits)	SW 550 Foundation of Social Work Research (3 credits)	SW 551 Data Analysis in Social Work Research (3 credits)	

**Second Year for DHS & CBP (34 credits)**

Fall	Winter	Spring
SW 500 Field Instruction IV (4 credits) within an aging services program	SW 500 Field Instruction V (4 credits) within an aging services program	SW 500 Field Instruction VI (4 credits) within an aging services program
SW 533 Advanced Practice for Direct Human Services I (3 credits) or SW 536 Advanced Community-based Practice I (3 credits)	SW 534 Advanced Practice for Direct Human Services II (3 credits) or SW 537 Advanced Community-Based Practice II (3 credits)	SW 535 Advanced Practice for Direct Human Services III (3 credits) or SW 538 Advanced Community-based Practice III (3 credits)
PHE 558 Perspectives in Aging (3 credits)		Advanced HBSE Elective: SW 544 Midlife & Beyond (3 credits)
SW 574 SW with Frail Older Adults (3 credits) (satisfies Advanced Practice and Advanced Research)		PHE 504 Internship Experience credit (1 credit)
		PHE 557 National Long-term Care Policy (3 credits) (or PHE 559 may be taken in winter instead)

**Second Year for SSAL ( 37 credits)**

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Spring</b>
SW 500 Field Instruction IV (4 credits) within an aging services program	SW 500 Field Instruction V (4 credits) within an aging services program	SW 500 Field Instruction VI (4 credits) within an aging services program
SW 580 Advanced Practice for SSAL (3 credits)	SW 581 Advanced Practice for SSAL (3 credits)	SW 582 Advanced Practice for SSAL (3 credits)
PHE 558 Perspectives in Aging (3 credits)		SW 544 Midlife and Beyond (3 credits)
SW 574 (or SW 590) Soc Wk w/Frail Older Adults (3 credits)		PHE 557 National LTC Policy (3 credits)
		USP 564: Political and Admin Issues in Aging (3 credits)
		PHE 504 Internship Experience credit (1 credit hour)

Note: A total of 78 credits is required for the M.S.W. degree. With careful planning, students in the DHS and CBP concentrations may be able to satisfy the requirements of both the M.S.W. degree and the Certificate in Gerontology with 80 credits. Students in the SSAL concentration may be able to satisfy the requirements of both programs with 83 credits. SSAL students may have a 17-credit spring in their second year. Of the elective courses, students must take courses in Advanced HBSE, Advanced Practice, Advanced Policy, and Advanced Research. Students pursuing the gerontology certificate are permitted to use PHE 559 or PHE 557 to satisfy their Advanced Policy Elective. PHE 558 and PHE 556 (or a suitable elective) may be used as free electives in the M.S.W. Program.