

Designing Age-Friendly Cities

By the year 2030, 1 in 5 Americans will be age 65 and older. This rapid change in our country's population is creating exciting opportunities for professionals with the expertise to create new ways of understanding and embracing aging in the twenty-first century. Gerontology addresses the social issues, problems, policies, and programs affecting the quality of life for our rapidly aging population. The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology enables professionals to empower the older adults in our community.



A World of Career Possibilities

Employment possibilities in the field of aging services are vast, and many opportunities for entrepreneurship in this field are yet to be discovered. They include positions at international, federal, state, and local levels of government, as well as positions in nonprofit and for-profit organizations in many areas, including housing, long-term care facilities, planning for age-friendly communities, aging services and workforce development.

Portland State University's Institute on Aging (IOA) faculty are global leaders on the cutting edge of social science research on aging. Students have the opportunity to work directly with IOA faculty on publicly and privately funded research.

Program Requirements

The [Graduate Certificate in Gerontology program](#) is offered by the Institute on Aging (IOA). The certificate requires a minimum of **18** credits, including three core courses (11 credits), two elective courses (6-8 credits), and an internship placement **or** an independent research project (1 or 3 credits). For more information and to **apply for the program**, please go here: <https://www.pdx.edu/institute-on-aging/how-apply>.

Students who are interested in pursuing both their graduate degree in Urban and Regional Planning and the Certificate in Gerontology are **REQUIRED** to contact faculty advisors in **BOTH** the [Institute on Aging](#) and the [Urban and Regional Planning](#) department to plan out next steps.

Experience

Gerontology program internships are 80 hours and must be with a program or agency that has a primary focus on older adults. Students must **complete an application form** and submit it to the IOA **ONE TERM PRIOR** to when the internship starts. The IOA director must approve all internships. In rare cases, a student might be approved to instead do an independent research project. The application and additional instructions are here: <https://www.pdx.edu/institute-on-aging/internship>.

Students in the MURP track **may** be able to fulfill the internship requirement for the MURP degree and Gerontology graduate certificate if their internship is relevant to Gerontology. The IOA director will advise students to make sure the topic is relevant. **If eligible, students would need to register separately with the IOA for a 1-credit unit using a [By-Arrangement Form \(AGE 504\)](#) in addition to submitting a reflective paper.** The 80 hours required for the Gerontology internship **could** be applied to the hours required by the MURP program. If a student's internship topic were **not** relevant to gerontology, then they would have to do the field experience (AGE 504) or an independent research paper (AGE 501) separately from their program track.

Gerontology Courses

Below is a sampling of the Gerontology courses available. **Course offerings are not guaranteed and may vary by term.** Questions about whether a course counts as an elective that is not listed on this sheet must be directed to the IOA for more information and approval.

COURSE	TITLE & CREDITS	DESCRIPTION	TERM
AGE 558/658	Perspectives on Aging (3)	An introduction to the field of gerontology is presented from the perspectives offered by multiple disciplines, including sociology, psychology, biology, economics, political science, and demography. [REQUIRED]	FALL
AGE 556	Health Aspects of Aging (4)	Examination of health-related changes that occur with aging. Review of current scientific literature with an investigation of physiological mechanisms responsible for changes in functional capacity throughout life. Explores the role of physical activity and nutrition in healthy aging. [REQUIRED]	FALL
SOC 569 <u>or</u> PSY 562	Sociology and Aging (4) Psychology of Adult Development & Aging (4)	A study of social determinants of the human life course, including biological and demographic conditions, age status patterns, age grading, rites of passage, socialization, generational phenomena, and youth and old age movements. Development of the individual from early adulthood through old age. Theory and research focusing on adult development from a life-span perspective. [SELECT ONE, REQUIRED]	SPRING FALL
AGE 557/567	National Long Term Care Policy (3)	This course examines the need for long-term care services and the risk factors associated with utilization of them as well as familiarizing students with the financing and delivery mechanisms in long-term care, both public and private. The policy issues in current long-term care initiatives are explored. [ELECTIVE]	SPRING
AGE 562	Creating Age-Friendly Communities (3)	This researched-based course seeks to improve understanding of physical, social, and service environments and it aims to share research findings with local partners in an effort to make the Portland region a better place for those of all ages and abilities. [ELECTIVE]	SUMMER
AGE 523	Business & Aging (4)	Economic and business implications of population aging, including an exploration of demographic changes, the economic reality faced by today's older adults in work and retirement, and older adults as consumers. [ELECTIVE]	WINTER