![Portland State University logo]

**Graduate Degree in Urban Studies &
Graduate Certificate in Gerontology**

Gerontology

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 and long-term care
- Planning for age-friendly communities
- Behavioral health
- Aging services
- Workforce development
- Work-life issues and family caregiving

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 an Urban Studies graduate degree and the graduate certificate in Gerontology are **REQUIRED** to contact faculty advisors in **BOTH** the Institute on Aging and Urban Studies department to plan next steps.

Experiential Learning

Gerontology 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 the start of the internship. A student might be approved to instead do an independent research project. The IOA director must approve all internships and projects. The application and additional instructions are here: https://www.pdx.edu/institute-on-aging/internship.

Gerontology Courses

Below is a sampling of the Gerontology courses available. **Please note 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 **or** **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**