

GERONTOLOGY INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR

Coordinator

Merril Silverstein, Minor Coordinator
Marjorie Cantor Professor of Aging Studies
Human Development and Family Science
314 Lyman Hall
315-443-3969
Merrils@syr.edu

The interdisciplinary minor in gerontology provides an opportunity for students to focus their academic work on issues related to the older population. The minor is designed to expose students to social, behavioral, health, and policy issues of relevance to aging and older adults. Students will find the minor useful if they are seeking a career working with older adults and/or their families, developing programs and policies of relevance to the older population, or considering a graduate program in a related area.

The minor requires completion of 18 credits, 12 of them at the 300 level or above. To be admitted to the program, students must submit a Declaration of Minor form to their faculty advisor, their home college dean's office, and the Human Development and Family Science minor coordinator.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Articulate and integrate multi-disciplinary models and theories commonly applied in the field of gerontology.
2. Critically evaluate major societal challenges and opportunities resulting from population aging.
3. Demonstrate how the field of gerontology studies old age as a life-stage and aging as a life-long process.
4. Describe bio-psycho-social changes that occur with aging as well as their plasticity and remediation.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Required Core Courses		
Select one of the following:		3
HFS 363	Midlife Development and Gerontology	
SWK 357	Processes of Aging	
SOC 364	Aging and Society	
Aging and Health Electives		
Select three of the following:		9
BIO 416	Biology of Aging	
HFS 326	Medical Terminology: Professional, Cultural and Developmental Perspectives	
NSD 342	Nutrition in the Life Span	
EXE 457	Exercise and Aging	
SOC 355	Sociology-of Health and Illness	
SOC 440	Sociology of Disability	
Aging and Related Issues Electives		
Select two of the following:		6
ANT 363	Anthropology of Family Life	

HFS 201	Family Development	
HFS 422	Work and Family in the 21st Century	
HFS 423		
HFS 443	Aging in the Context of Family Life	
HFS 487	Critical Incidents in Family Development	
SOC 421	Population Issues	
REL 551	Ethics and the Health professions	
Total Credits		18

Note

Students may petition to have other aging-related courses count toward the Gerontology Minor focus. In some circumstances, gerontology courses taken at another university can be substituted to meet course requirements. A petition to approve these courses should be submitted in advance of taking them. However, the petition for inclusion must be approved by the minor coordinator and the chair of Human Development and Family Science. Students may count between 3-6 credits of independent study (done in SWK/SOC/HFS) towards the minor. Such credits will be considered upon submission of a petition. These Independent Study forms should demonstrate a relationship between student work in the areas of Aging-related issues and/or Aging and Health. No more than 12 credits from a single department can count towards the minor.