



## Gerontological Studies

Phone: (216) 368-2700  
Mather Memorial, Room 226

### INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM

#### B.A. IN GERONTOLOGICAL STUDIES (SECOND MAJOR OR MINOR ONLY)

**Dale Dannefer and Gary Deimling, Co-Directors**

*The Gerontological Studies Program is a multidisciplinary program designed to integrate research and theory from multiple disciplines about aging and the life course. Prompted in part by broad social and technological changes that include the "graying" of the world's population, humanists, scientists, social scientists, and professionals have become interested in understanding the position of older adults in society, age-related processes in various contexts, and variations in the cultural meaning of age. The program draws on the most recent thinking and research in a variety of disciplines to provide students with a background that will be helpful after graduation, both in work and in graduate or professional school.*

#### ABOUT

The core courses are drawn from three departments: Anthropology, Psychological Sciences, and Sociology. Students may choose from a variety of courses according to their own interests. Most of the electives are not specifically gerontology courses but cover topics that contribute to the understanding of aging and the life course. The perspectives gained in the core courses will provide the student with the background needed to relate the material in the more general courses to gerontological issues. The program is firmly grounded in the liberal arts and thus provides the student with the challenge to think and communicate effectively and to integrate diverse information, theories, and practice.

Gerontological Studies is an appropriate major or minor for students with a wide variety of career goals. The aging of the population has made available entry-level positions for persons with baccalaureate degrees in organizations that provide services to older people and that formulate policy related to aging and older adults. Many graduate programs now include an emphasis on aging for which a degree in Gerontological Studies would serve as a useful background. Students planning to pursue professional degrees will find that an increasing number of their clients or patients will be older adults and that problems with which they must deal will be related to aging. The perspective provided by participating in the Gerontological Studies program provides students with excellent background for working with older populations.

Faculty members associated with the program are engaged in a variety of funded research projects. These include studies of Alzheimer's disease; cancer survivorship; health disparities and cumulative disadvantage over the life course; patterns of care for the elderly; visual perception changes that accompany aging; the impact of high levels of physical activity on the biological aging process; grandparent-grandchild relationships; and stress, coping, and adaptation among urban community and institutionalized elderly.

#### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AND

##### COURSE OFFERINGS

The program offers a major that leads to the B.A. degree. However, it may be selected only as a second major, the first major being in a traditional academic department. The major consists of 30 credit hours; 9 are in required courses and 21 are in approved electives.

##### REQUIRED COURSES

###### 9 CREDIT HOURS

COSI 345: Communication and Aging  
PSCL 369: Adult Development and Aging  
SOCI 361: The Life Course  
or  
SOCI 369/469: Aging in American Society

##### APPROVED ELECTIVES

At least 21 credit hours must be earned in the approved electives listed below. This list changes from time to time as department offerings change. Check with the director of the gerontological studies program for current information.

ANTH 215: Health, Culture and Disease: An Introduction to Medical Anthropology  
SOCI 311: Health, Illness and Social Behavior  
SOCI 313: Sociology of Stress and Coping  
SOCI 319: Sociology of Institutional Care  
SOCI 361: The Life Course (if not taking as an elective)  
SOCI 365: Health Care Delivery  
SOCI 369/469: Aging in American Society

##### GERONTOLOGY MINOR

The minor consists of 15 credits, including at least two of the core gerontology courses listed below and any three of the approved electives or remaining core courses.

COSI 345: Communication and Aging  
PSCL 369: Adult Development and Aging  
SOCI 361: The Life Course  
SOCI 369/469: Aging in American Society

#### PROGRAM FACULTY

##### Dale Dannefer, Ph.D., Co-Director

(Rutgers University)  
Selah Chamberlain Professor of Sociology and Chair, Sociology  
*Aging and the life course; theory; work and family; research methods*

##### Gary Deimling, Ph.D., Co-Director

(Bowling Green State University)  
Professor, Sociology  
*Medical sociology; sociology of aging; family sociology*

##### Atwood Gaines, Ph.D., M.P.H.

(University of California, Berkeley)  
Professor, Anthropology  
*Medical and psychiatric anthropology; cultural studies of science and medicine; cultural bioethics; religion; aging and dementia; social identity and health*

##### Brian Gran, Ph.D.

(Northwestern University)  
Professor, Sociology  
*Sociology of law; comparative sociology; health care policy; human rights*

##### Eva Kahana, Ph.D. - Director

(University of Chicago)  
Distinguished University Professor and Pierce T. and Elizabeth D. Robson Professor of the Humanities, Sociology  
*Sociology of Aging, medical sociology; social factors in stress and coping.*

##### Jessica A. Kelley, Ph.D.

(Purdue University)  
Professor, Sociology  
*Health disparities; sociology of disability; sociology of the life course; race/ethnicity*

#### For More Information

General Bulletin  
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