

Graduate with a Master of Arts in Gerontology.

It is estimated that two of every 10 Americans will be 65 or older by the year 2030. As the population ages, the need for persons knowledgeable about aging will grow. The possibilities for our graduates include working directly with older persons in a wide variety of programs and services in the community and working on behalf of older persons in areas such as research, advocacy and teaching about aging. The goal in both types of work is to increase the quality of our lives as we age.

Designated a Program of Merit*

What constitutes a graduate degree in gerontology?

The program is 30 semester hours with thesis and defense or 32 semester hours with comprehensive written and oral examinations.

Program Mission

The Master of Arts in Gerontology Program is designed to provide a multi-disciplinary education for future and current professionals in gerontology. We are committed to maintaining the quality and distinction of the program that was exemplified by our recognition as a Program of Merit by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. Opportunities are available for students to gain exposure to specialized expertise in gerontology theory, research, practice, social policy issues and the process of aging in a global and culturally diverse society. This expertise prepares students for a wide range of careers in gerontology, including direct community and social services, program administration, mental health practice, government services, higher education, long-term health care, general health care and wellness.

Where are gerontology graduates employed?

Students have graduated from the program and used their degrees in the field of gerontology or as a stepping stone to Ph.D. programs or various other careers. Our graduates are employed in not-for-profit and private organizations, government agencies and educational institutions. Employment opportunities include direct social services, program administration, government service, adult education, research, long-term care, higher education, finance, housing, legal aid, medical service, mental health, nutrition, recreation/social activities, health and physical fitness, and administration. For more information, visit www.careersinaging.com.

How long will it take to complete?

The timing depends on the student's flexibility and availability. Program planning is in consultation with and contingent on the approval of the coordinator. The program potentially may be completed in one calendar year consisting of fall, spring and summer semesters/terms.

The purpose of this multi-disciplinary program is to provide an in-depth study of gerontology for both potential professionals and current practitioners working in the field. It is in cooperation with:

- School of Family and Consumer Sciences
- Department of Kinesiology and Sports Studies
- Department of Psychology
- Department of Sociology/Anthropology
- Department of Secondary Education and Foundations

Core Requirements (21 semester hours)

- FCS 5846 Administration of Human Services Program (3)
- FCS 5900 Research Methods (3)
- KSS 5225 Physical Activity and Aging (3)
- PSY 5540 Psychological Processes in the Aged (3)
- SOC 5100 Sociological Aspects of Gerontology (3)
- EDF 5590 Educational Response to Third Age Learning (3)
- FCS 5985 Internship (3)

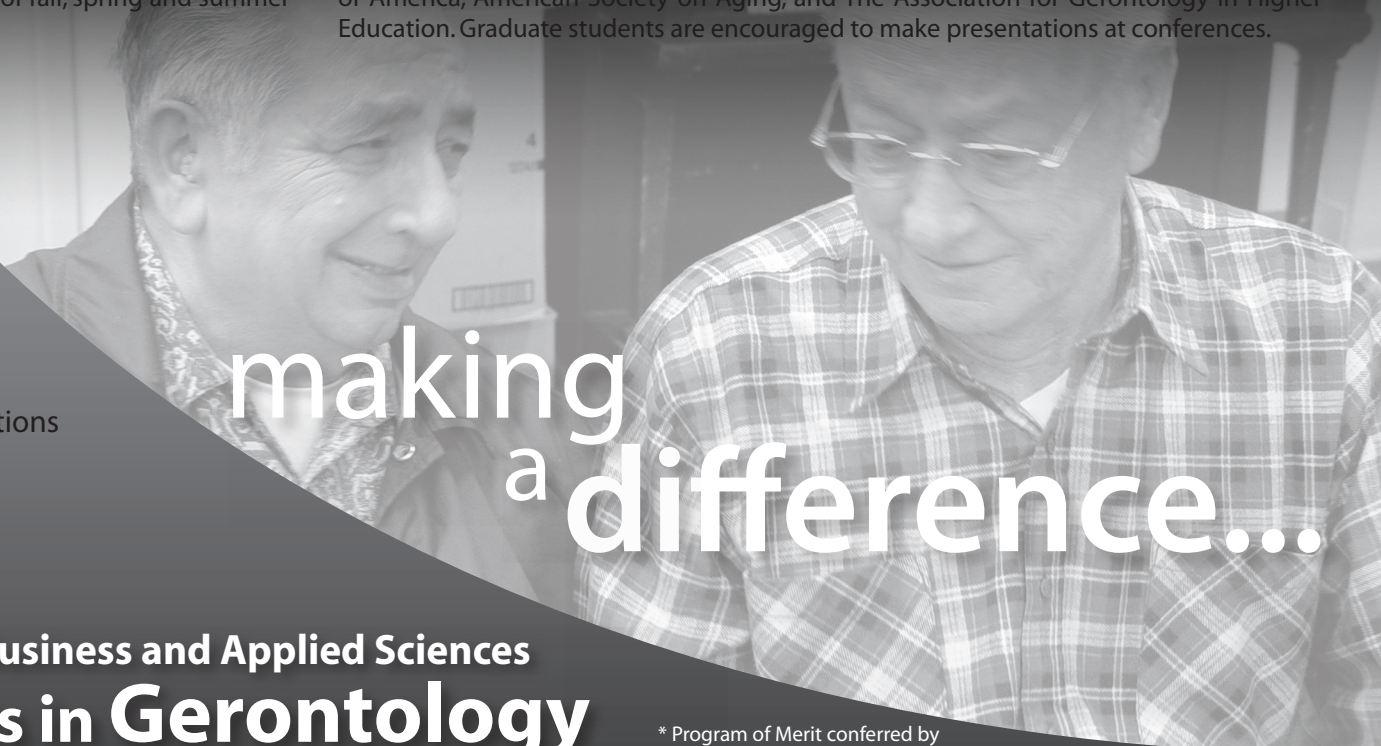
Thesis, independent study and special problems in gerontology are offered in most of the cooperating academic units. In addition to the core courses, the student will select 11 hours of electives with prior approval by the program coordinator.

Traditional and non-traditional student schedules are accommodated through a variety of formats. Evening, intensive summer, weekend, off-campus and Internet-delivered courses are available.

Graduate assistantships are offered each year. Applications for assistantships are due to the M.A. in Gerontology Program coordinator by Feb. 15 or the following business day. In addition to the completed application form, three letters of reference addressing the applicant's aptitude and interest in working with older people are to be mailed directly to the M.A. in Gerontology Program coordinator. The GRE or MAT is not required. A thesis is not required, but it is encouraged if it matches your professional goals.

Are there networking opportunities?

Students can become members of Phi Kappa Phi, Omega, the gerontology honor society. There are opportunities to attend professional conferences such as The Gerontological Society of America, American Society on Aging, and The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. Graduate students are encouraged to make presentations at conferences.



making
a difference...



Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences
Master of Arts in Gerontology

* Program of Merit conferred by Association for Gerontology in Higher Education

About Eastern

Eastern Illinois University, located in the east-central Illinois community of Charleston, is recognized among the top 100 universities in the country – a choice for about 12,000 students annually who can select from a broad range of academic programs and degree offerings. Students attending Eastern receive a high-quality education characterized by small classes taught by a dedicated and caring faculty who place student success as their top priority. We invite you to join the thousands of students who have made Eastern their choice.