

**LUMPKIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND APPLIED  
SCIENCES  
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

CGS Agenda Item: 17-13 Effective Fall 2017
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**TO: Council on Graduate Studies**

**FROM: Mahyar Izadi, Dean**

**Richard Flight, Chair**  
**LCBAS Curriculum Committee**

**SUBJECT: Curriculum Proposals**

**DATE: January 27, 2017**

The LCBAS Curriculum Committee has approved the following proposals from the School of Family and Consumer Sciences:

**Effective Fall 2017 – see attached proposals**  
Revised Program Proposal – MA in Aging Studies

cc: Melanie Burns, Interim Chair, School of Family and Consumer Sciences

**Executive Summary and Proposed Program/Catalog Revisions for M.A. in Aging Studies  
Submitted by: Dr. Kathleen O'Rourke, Aging Studies Graduate Coordinator  
January 13, 2017**

The interdisciplinary M.A. in Aging Studies faculty representatives (CMN – Dr. Elizabeth Gill, EDF – Dr. William Hine, FCS – Dr. Linda Simpson, HST – Dr. Kathleen Phillips, KSS – Dr. Brian Pritschet) who teach courses for the program voted in support of all of the following proposed revisions. An explanation/rationale for proposed program revisions follows.

**Total Credit Hours**

A reduction in total credit hours from 36 to 33 is proposed. The revision would align more closely with the required number of credit hours by EIU's Graduate School. A 33-credit hour program reduces the time-to-degree completion and financial costs to students without compromising program quality.

**Required Courses**

Nine (27 credits) of the current 12 required courses will remain in the Aging Studies curriculum and three (9 credits) course deletions are proposed.

*Required courses to continue include:*

- CMN 5155 - Communication and Aging Credits: 3
- EDF 5590 - Educational Response to Third Age Learning Credits: 3
- FCS 5100 - Societal Aspects of Aging Credits: 3
- FCS 5400 - Aging Policy in Action Credits: 3
- FCS 5900 - Research Methods in Family and Consumer Sciences. Credits: 3
- HST 4890 - Health and Aging. Credits: 3
- KSS 5225 - Physical Activity and Aging Credits: 3
- PSY 5540 - Psychological Processes in the Aged Credits: 3
- FCS 5985 - Gerontology Internship Credits: 3
- OR
- FCS 5950 - Thesis Credits: 3 to 6
- OR
- FCS 5990 - Independent Study. Credits: 1 to 6

*Required courses for proposed deletion include:*

- FCS 5200 - Immersion in Long Term Care Credits: 3

A unanimous consensus was reached at the Fall 2016 Aging Studies Board (faculty, Chairs, Deans, Graduate School Dean) meeting that the liability concerns and costs of students residing on-site in a long term health care setting for an extended time outweighs the benefits. In addition, requiring an in-person residential course component in an online graduate program poses an undue burden to the students, the majority of whom are employed full-time and not residing in the East Central Illinois area.

- FCS 5301 - Consumer and Management Problems of Older People. Credits: 3

As aging policy and consumer management issues related to older adulthood in society have become more intertwined, the existing content of FCS 5400 and FCS 5301 has reached a point of overlap between the two courses. Merging the content from FCS 5301 into FCS 5400 (a separate revised course proposal will be forthcoming) will allow for a more refined, well-focused FCS 5400 course to better address the current/future issues and trends of aging in relation to policy and consumer management. Examples of topics already covered in FCS 5400 and overlapping to FCS 5301 include: insurance and health care policy, regulations, and resource management for older adult consumers; consumer protection laws and advocacy; and disability protection/provision laws and human rights.

- **MBA 5520 - Strategic Human Resource Management. Credits: 3**  
MBA 5520 requires an online prerequisite course and additional tuition for students prior to enrollment in MBA 5520. In the best interest of students and the programs, a mutual agreement was reached during AY-2015-2016 between the Aging Studies and MBA graduate coordinators/faculty to eliminate MBA 5520 from the Aging Studies curriculum. The prerequisite for MBA 5520 and the additional tuition costs pose time-to-completion and financial burdens and barriers to students. Given the career goals of Aging Studies students, alternate appropriate elective courses in FCS (n=3) and PLS (n=3) are proposed below that offer better alignment with students' career goals and paths.

### **Elective Courses**

Six credit hours of elective courses would allow students to have more choice and flexibility in their program of study. The current program of study offers no electives and, consequently, students may be prohibited from pursuing a more specialized academic and professional career path. For example, the proposed elective course structure would allow students interested in working directly with families to take additional FCS courses, students interested in health careers to take additional HST courses, or students interested in public policy to take PLS courses. Students may also elect to take courses from two different but still complementary academic units.

### **Summary**

The work on program and curriculum revisions has been in progress for the past year. Given the interdisciplinary structure of the Aging Studies program, it has been critical to gain support and buy-in from faculty and administrators in all six cooperating academic units and that goal has been achieved in full. The proposed program and curriculum revisions will afford Aging Studies students with integrative, holistic, and high quality learning experiences. Aging Studies graduates will be academically prepared to embark on or continue in careers to meet the needs of the increasing 65+ year old population demographic.

### Aging Studies

**Program Mission:** The online Master of Arts in Aging Studies program is designed to provide a multidisciplinary 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 gerontological 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 the field of aging, including direct community and social services, program administration, mental health practice, government services, higher education, long-term care, health and wellness, and entrepreneurship.

**Admission Requirements:** To be eligible for degree candidacy, applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to the Graduate School (see “Admission to Graduate Degree and Certificate Programs”).

**Degree Audit:** The graduate plan of study is the EIU Degree Audit, which is generated automatically in the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) at the time of degree or certificate candidacy. Modifications of the standard EIU Degree Audit are submitted by the graduate coordinator to the certification officer in the Graduate School at the time modifications are approved. The Degree Audit serves as an unofficial summary of requirements for the program. Degree and certificate candidates are advised to review the comprehensive summary of the Degree Audit process specified on the “Requirements for All Degree and Certificate Candidates” section of the Graduate Catalog. Individual programs may require candidates to submit plans of study in addition to the Degree Audit, candidates should consult with the program coordinator.

### Degree Requirements

Degree requirements include those outlined for the master’s degree by the Graduate School (see “Requirements for the Master’s Degree”).

The courses for the degree must total ~~36~~ 33 semester hours. ~~The program is organized in a cohort fashion, with all students progressing throughout the courses together and completing the master’s degree in 18 months. Students are never actively taking more than two courses at once.~~

Required Courses: ~~27 credits all courses in the MA program are required and listed below.~~

CMN 5155 - Communication and Aging Credits: 3

EDF 5590 - Educational Response to Third Age Learning Credits: 3

FCS 5100 - Societal Aspects of Aging Credits: 3

FCS 5400 - Aging Policy in Action Credits: 3

FCS 5900 - Research Methods in Family and Consumer Sciences. Credits: 3

HST 4890 - Health and Aging. Credits: 3

KSS 5225 - Physical Activity and Aging Credits: 3

PSY 5540 - Psychological Processes in the Aged Credits: 3

~~MBA 5520 - Strategic Human Resource Management. Credits: 3~~

~~FCS 5200 - Immersion in Long Term Care Credits: 3~~

~~FCS 5301 - Consumer and Management Problems of Older People. Credits: 3~~

FCS 5985 - Gerontology Internship Credits: 3

OR

FCS 5950 - Thesis Credits: 3 to 6

OR

FCS 5990 - Independent Study. Credits: 1 to 6

Elective Courses (Select 6 semester hours):

- BIO 4834 Neurobiology Credits: 3
- FCS 4820 Death and Dying Credits: 3
- FCS 4846 Aging and the Family Credits: 3
- FCS 5151 Nutrition for Older People Credits: 1
- FCS 5450 Administration and Supervision in Family and Consumer Sciences Credits: 3
- FCS 5470 Evaluation in Family and Consumer Sciences Credits: 3
- FCS 5846 Administration of Human Services Programs Credits: 3
- HST 5600 Essentials of International Health Credits: 3
- HST 5750 Health Program Planning and Evaluation Credits: 3
- HST 5770 Leadership and Ethics for Health Professionals Credits: 3
- PLS 4793 Civic and Nonprofit Leadership Credits: 3
- PLS 4873 Human Resource Management in Public & Nonprofit Organizations Credits: 3
- PLS 4893 Budgeting in Governmental and Nonprofit Organizations Credits: 3
- SOC 4800 Sociological Aspects of Gerontology Credits: 3

\* Other courses as approved by the academic advisor. Some of the elective courses will require prerequisite courses or permission of the instructor.

Online and On-Campus/~~Low-Residency~~ Components (~~LRC~~)

~~Included in the master's degree program are three in-person components, referred to as LRCs that are as follows:~~

The entire graduate degree program can be completed in the form of online courses to fulfill the required total of 33 credit hours. All required courses are offered online on a regular basis. A limited number of courses are also available in the face-to-face, on-campus format.

#### ~~LRC1:~~

During each summer term, ~~At the start of the degree program,~~ students will be invited ~~required~~ to ~~to be on~~ campus for a one-day ~~four days (Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun)~~ informational meeting. Included in this in-person component will be a ~~new~~ student orientation, explanation of academic courses/curriculum, advisement for courses and progression in the degree program, ~~welcome dinner,~~ a ~~D2L~~ tutorial on technology for online course navigation, a library orientation, and a description of the independent study/internship/thesis options. ~~Also during the LRC1 the students will spend one day in a face-to-face component for FCS 5400.~~

~~LRC2: The second in-person component will occur in the final (5th) semester of the program and consists of an experiential/laboratory learning experience as part of the FCS 5200 Immersion in Long-Term Care course. Students in the course will reside in a nursing home for 48 hours. Students begin their residency at Sullivan Rehab noon on Friday (during one of two possible weekends). The instructor will visit students three times during their stay. Immersive learning experience ends at 1:00 pm Sunday and students participate in a two-hour debriefing/critical reflection session with the instructor before departing Sullivan, IL.~~

~~LRC3: In the final semester of the program, The third resident component will take place toward the end of the final/5th semester of the student's program. The purpose of the three-day on-campus module will be for students will deliver a to-give professional capstone written report and presentations based on their completed independent study/internship/thesis work. The professional capstone experience will demonstrate comprehensive mastery of subject matter from Aging Studies coursework and application of course content knowledge to the culminating independent study/internship/thesis. Written reports will be submitted online and The presentations will be delivered online or in person, as agreed upon by the Graduate Coordinator/academic adviser and the student. given in front of their cohort members as well as the faculty from the Aging Studies program.~~

#### Graduate Assistantships

~~Information on graduate assistantships may be obtained by contacting the Coordinator of the Aging Studies Program or Chair, Family and Consumer Sciences, 2056 Klehm Hall, EIU.~~ Applications for graduate assistantships in Aging Studies are located at <https://www.eiu.edu/graduate/GAapplication/GAappl.php>

For more information, please contact Dr. Kathleen O'Rourke, the Aging Studies Graduate Coordinator, at [kaorourke@eiu.edu](mailto:kaorourke@eiu.edu) or the Chair of the School of Family and Consumer Sciences in Klehm Hall.

Date approved by the department or school (Aging Studies Board faculty): January 11, 2017

Date approved by the college curriculum committee: January 26, 2017

Date approved by CGS: