

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

TO: Council on Graduate Studies

FROM: Mahyar Izadi, Dean

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE ACTION

DATE: February 11, 2015

Effective Summer 2015 (see attachment)

Program name change from Gerontology to Aging Studies – see attached document

Att.

C.

L. Simpson, Chair, School of Family and Consumer Sciences

M. Sherwood, Assistant Chair, School of Family and Consumer Sciences

**LUMPKIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND APPLIED SCIENCES
EXECUTIVE ACTION REQUEST**

TO: Mary Hennig, Certification Officer

FROM: Linda Simpson

DATE: Monday, February 10, 2015

ACTION REQUESTED:

Change of name for the interdisciplinary Gerontology Master's program from Gerontology to *Aging Studies*.

RATIONALE:

The interdisciplinary Gerontology MA program has been active at EIU for over 30 years. While the need for professionals in the field continues to rapidly expand, attracting people to the field of aging continues to be a challenge. Undergraduate students are either unaware of what gerontology is or believe that gerontology professionals only work with frail elderly people in health care settings. The reality is that gerontology is the study of *the aging process*. The current EIU gerontology faculty have agreed that changing the name to *Aging Studies* could reinvigorate the graduate program at the same time reflect a life course approach to aging that emphasizes engagement and activity rather than frailty and illness. Because the master's program is currently updating its curriculum and transforming to a low-residency online cohort program, now would be the most appropriate time to change the name of the program. After seeking feedback from Gerontology program alumni and professionals in the field, the faculty received unanimous support for the name change.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Summer 2015 (to coincide with the launch of the first MA cohort).

CURRENT CATALOG COPY

Attached

PROPOSED CATLOG COPY

Attached

Gerontology

Program Mission: The Master of Arts in Gerontology 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 gerontology, including direct community and social services, program administration, mental health practice, government services, higher education, long-term care, and health and wellness.

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 semester hours for all students enrolled in the program. In addition to the core requirements, 12 hours of graduate credit electives are to be selected by the student with prior approval of the advisor. Without the appropriate preparation, additional graduate or undergraduate course work may be required as determined by the Gerontology Program Committee. All students enrolled in this program must satisfy the basic course requirements listed below:

Graduate Assistantships

Information on graduate assistantships may be obtained by contacting the Coordinator of the Gerontology Program or Chair, Family and Consumer Sciences, 2056 Klehm Hall, EIU.

Gerontology Aging Studies

Program Mission: The Master of Arts in Gerontology 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 gerontology, including direct community and social services, program administration, mental health practice, government services, higher education, long-term care, and health and wellness.

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 semester hours for all students enrolled in the program. In addition to the core requirements, 12 hours of graduate credit electives are to be selected by the student with prior approval of the advisor. Without the appropriate preparation, additional graduate or undergraduate course work may be required as determined by the Gerontology Aging Studies Program Committee. All students enrolled in this program must satisfy the basic course requirements listed below:

Graduate Assistantships

Information on graduate assistantships may be obtained by contacting the Coordinator of the Gerontology Aging Studies Program or Chair, Family and Consumer Sciences, 2056 Klehm Hall, EIU.