



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences

GRADUATE CENTER FOR GERONTOLOGY

March 28, 2007

TO: Dr. Cleophus Price, Assistant Dean, Graduate Academic Services

FROM: Dr. John F. Watkins, Director, Graduate Certificate in Gerontology

SUBJECT: Review of the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JFW', located to the right of the 'FROM:' line.

Please find attached the documentation requested for review of our graduate certificate. I apologize for the tardiness of this submission. Between Dr. Smith's work schedule and my travel schedule, we found it difficult to wrap up the report by the deadline.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any question.

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www.mc.uky.edu/gerontology

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The Graduate School

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GERONTOLOGY

1. Introduction

Gerontology is the *study of aging from an interdisciplinary perspective*. It examines specific changes common to older adults as well as broad social issues. The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology offers students and professionals specialized training in aging, and will enhance employment opportunities by documenting this interdisciplinary specialization. The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology will meet the needs of:

- Students preparing for careers in public service and program administration that relate to understanding and meeting the needs of the older population.
- Graduate degree candidates in the basic & applied sciences who are interested in the study of aging.
- Candidates seeking professional degrees in human service professions who plan to provide specialty services to older populations.
- Professionals with an interest in the field of aging who desire further course work in gerontology to enhance their professional development.

The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology was first authorized in 1987. Since that time more than 100 students have been awarded the Certificate.

The Graduate Certificate was reviewed and reauthorized in 2001. Since then, several important milestones have been achieved:

- In 2005 the Graduate Certificate became part of the Graduate Center for Gerontology and benefits from the oversight and resources of the Graduate Center. Increasingly, Certificate students are using the Certificate to explore their interest in pursuing the Ph.D. in Gerontology.
- New relationships, both internal and external, have resulted in increased course offerings, coordination with degree programs, and an influx of new students. Internally, these relationships include the MSW, the PharmD, and the Physician Assistant programs. Externally, a relationship with Lexington Theological Seminary has resulted in 3 seminary students combining the Certificate with their Seminary degree.
- Changes to the Certificate individual plan of study process were authorized by the Graduate School in 2002. These changes created a pre-approved course list and eliminated the requirement that each student's plan of study and any subsequent changes to it be approved by the Certificate Faculty Committee. This resulted in increased flexibility in scheduling for students and a more efficient process for both students and Committee. Students unanimously elected to complete the

Certificate under the new process. This change did not significantly change the curriculum itself.

- A survey of all students who had completed the Certificate was conducted in 2004. 46 of 84 completers, or 54.8%, responded. Results are used in program planning and evaluation.

2. Affiliated Faculty

The primary and affiliate faculty of the Graduate Center for Gerontology serve as faculty for the Certificate. A list is attached.

The Certificate Faculty Committee evaluates student applications, reviews curricula and practicum proposals, and plans for the Certificate. Members include gerontology faculty and faculty from programs with Certificate students. The Current members are:

John Watkins, Graduate Center for Gerontology

Mike Smith, Health Service Management, College of Public Health

Janet Ford, College of Social Work

Fred Danner, Educational Psychology, College of Education

Lee Blonder, Behavioral Science, College of Medicine

Gerry Gairola, Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences

Melody Ryan, College of Pharmacy

3. Current Admission Requirements and Procedures

Students must submit an application (available from the Certificate website) to the Certificate Faculty Committee and be admitted to the UK Graduate School. Students may be in a degree program, or can apply for Post-Baccalaureate (non-degree) status solely for the purposes of earning the Certificate. Students in a professional degree program (e.g., Physician Assistant, Pharmacy, etc.) must also be admitted the Graduate School. A GPA of at least 3.0 is required. A complete application includes:

- A completed Certificate application form.
- Transcripts. Official transcripts are required for undergraduate and graduate work from universities other than the University of Kentucky.
- Addresses of two professional, employment or academic references. The Certificate office contacts references directly. For students currently pursuing a graduate degree, one reference must be from a faculty member in the home academic department. For students who have attended a college or university in

the last 5 years, one reference must be from a faculty member or instructor who can offer an academic (classroom) reference.

All application materials must be received in the Certificate Office by the deadlines in order to be submitted to the Faculty Committee for review. Applications are reviewed three times annually.

4. Requirements for Completion

The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology is awarded to individuals who complete 15 graduate credit hours in an approved multidisciplinary curriculum in gerontology. The interdisciplinary focus of the Certificate allows students to tailor course work to their specific field of interest. Students can take courses on a part or full-time basis. The Certificate requires twelve graduate credit hours from a pre-approved course list, with at least one 3 hour course in each of the following areas:

- Biomedical Sciences and Health Services
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Policy, Planning and Ethics

The current pre-approved course list is attached.

Up to 6 hours of courses from the pre-approved list completed at UK before admission to the Certificate may count toward the requirements. (This does not include practicum or research projects.) Requests to include these courses are made on the application.

To ensure an interdisciplinary experience, no more than 2 courses may be taken from each department. Special requests must be submitted to the Faculty Committee in advance.

Students must also complete either a practicum or a research project for 3 hours of credit. A practicum focused on aging can be completed in conjunction with a practicum requirement from a degree program, or can be arranged independently for the Certificate. A minimum of 210 hours will satisfy the practicum requirement.

Research projects may be done as a thesis or dissertation, or as an independent study.

Students will work with a faculty advisor during the proposal stage and as they complete their practicum/research projects. Proposals must be submitted to the Certificate Faculty Committee prior to beginning work. Proposals must include:

- Purpose of the practicum/research project and how it fits into the student's Certificate and overall educational goals;
- Specific objectives and expected accomplishments; and
- Specific information regarding the practicum/research project.

Once the proposal has been approved, work may begin. For a practicum, it is usual practice for the on-site supervisor to meet with the student weekly to offer feedback and discuss their progress toward the goals and objectives of the experience.

Midterm evaluations are sent to the student and on-site supervisor to formally evaluate the progression of the practicum. Upon completion of the experience, the on-site supervisor is asked to complete an overall evaluation. Students are required to submit a final report/evaluation with a copy of any materials developed during the practicum to the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology.

Students must receive an A or B in all Certificate coursework. Students have up to three years to complete the Certificate. An extension of three additional years may be requested. The Faculty Committee completes a final review of each student's work before recommending the award of the Certificate. The award of a Certificate in Gerontology will be posted on the student's official transcript.

5. Rationale for Continuation

The need for the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology continues. A dramatic increase in the population of older adults is projected. That increase will require that professionals in multiple disciplines integrate the knowledge of aging into their work. The Certificate provides a flexible way of acquiring this knowledge from a multi-disciplinary perspective and integrating it into a variety of careers and professions.

Students continue to recognize this need and the opportunity. In 2006, 7 students were awarded the Certificate. We anticipate an additional 5-7 completions this year. Currently, 26 students are studying for the Certificate. 6 new students have been admitted over the past 12 months.

Students who have completed the Certificate remain convinced of its value for working effectively with older adults. In the recent survey mentioned above, completers now in the workforce were asked to rate the value added by the Certificate on a 5 point scale (No Value to High Value) in relation to career related items:

Item	Mean Score
Specialized Knowledge to Do My Work	4.15
Ability to Advocate for Needs of Elderly	4.10
Ability to Relate to Elderly Clients	4.42
Credentials to apply for a position	3.75

6. Attachments

- Faculty List
- Faculty Committee List
- Pre-approved Course List
- Copy of Certificate Awarded
- Brochure Example

Additional information, forms, etc. can be found at the website at <http://www.mc.uky.edu/gerontology/Pages/certificate.htm>

CORE FACULTY: GRADUATE CENTER FOR GERONTOLOGY

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M.D. Tulane University

MICHAEL D. SMITH

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M.A., Ph.D. Philosophy, Loyola University of Chicago

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Ph.D., Epidemiology, University of Minnesota

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Ph.D. Civil Engineering, Michigan State University

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M.S., Health Systems Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ph.D., Decision Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

JOHN VAN WILLIGEN

M.A. Anthropology, University of Arizona

Ph.D. Anthropology, University of Arizona

PRE-APPROVED COURSE LIST
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GERONTOLOGY

Biomedical Sciences and Health Services Courses:

ANA/GRN/PGY/PHA 710 Aging of the Nervous System

BIO/GRN 612 Biology of Aging

BSC/GRN 782 Women's Health and Aging

GRN 770* Special Topics: Clinical Geriatrics

Epidemiology of Aging

HSE/NUR 510 Older Women and Their Health

KHP 781* Pro Seminar: Exercise in Health and Disease and Aging

PAS 640 Survey of Geriatric Medicine

PHR 813/GRN 513 Geriatric Pharmacy

SW/GRN 643 Biomedical Aspects of Aging

Social and Behavioral Sciences Courses:

ANT 539 Aging in Cross-Cultural Perspective

BSC 770 Psychosocial Issues in Aging and Health

BSC 772/GRN 770* Topical Seminar: Aging, Health and Decision Making

CJT 780* Special Topics: Communications and Aging

EDP 778* Special Topics: Adults as Learners

FAM/GEO/GRN 585 Aging and Environment (potentially Policy/Planning/Ethics with pre-approval)

FAM/GRN 660 Aging and Family Values

FAM 759* Special Topics: Personal Financial Issues in Aging

GEO 722 Social Geography: Spatial Experience and the Life Course

GRN 770* Special Topics: Psychology of Aging

Alzheimer's Disease

Aging in Rural Environments

PSY 562 Adv. Topics in Cognitive Psychology: Adult Development and Aging

SOC 735* Topical Seminar in Social Inequality: Gender and Aging

SW 642 Psychological Aspects of Human Aging

Policy, Planning and Ethics Courses:

GRN 715 Health Policy and Aging

GRN 770/SPH 646* Special Topics: Elder Mistreatment

GRN 770* Special Topics: Ethics in Aging
Social Policy and Aging
Public Health and Aging
SOC 535 Aging, Inequality and Society
SW 613 Urban Ecology and Aging
HSM 510 Organization of the Long-Term Care Sector

Elective Course Approved for Social Work Students Only:
SW 580 Topical Seminar in Social Work: End-of-Life Care

With prior approval, additional courses not pre-approved may be used to fulfill requirements.

Courses listed or cross-listed as GRN are automatically pre-approved.



*University of Kentucky College of Public Health
Lexington, Kentucky*

Graduate Center in Gerontology

presents the

**Graduate Certificate in
Gerontology**

To

*In recognition of successful completion of an approved
multi-disciplinary curriculum in gerontology*

Director, Graduate Center in Gerontology

Dean, Graduate School

May 2006

Brochure example to be inserted this page.