



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Research and Graduate Studies

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TRANSMITTAL

DATE: October 3, 2001
TO: Cindy Todd
Senate Council
FROM: Becky Fister
Graduate Council

The following proposal was approved by the Graduate Council April 10, 2001:

Re-authorization for the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology

The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology has been delivered and favorably received for the past 12 years. The certificate curriculum has been renewed for a period of six years.



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To: Douglas Kalika, Dean

From: Michael D. Smith

Re: Changes in the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology

Date: November 1, 2002

Sanders-Brown
Center on Aging

101 Sanders-Brown Building
Lexington, KY 40536-0230

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The Faculty Committee of the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology met on September 11, 2002, and recommended two changes in the curriculum. Although we believe these changes do not affect the basic focus or requirements, I would like to have all the necessary approvals made before changing the Certificate documents and forms, the website, etc. We submit these for your review and approval.

- (1) Replace the current requirement that the student take a specific "three-hour multidisciplinary overview course on aging" with a requirement that **the student take at least one three-hour course in each of three separate areas: biomedical sciences/health services, social and behavioral sciences, and policy and planning.**

Previously, students were required to take courses in at least two of these areas. The Committee has already designated to which of these three areas each course approved for use in the Gerontology Certificate would apply. There is no change to the total number of hours required for the Certificate (15 credits). This change is made because the "three hour multidisciplinary overview" is no longer available regularly, and the Committee wishes to preserve the interdisciplinary nature of the Certificate. We feel that if a student takes one course in each of these three sub-areas within Gerontology, the objective of appropriate exposure to the broad interdisciplinary nature of gerontology will have been automatically achieved.

- (2) Eliminate the current requirement that the student must have his/her curriculum ("plan of study") and any subsequent changes to it pre-approved by the Faculty Committee. Instead, **the student will self-design a plan of study, observing the same criteria, requirements, and courses currently applied by the Faculty Committee.** Committee approval will still be required for courses not on the approved list and for the research project or practicum.

This change is made to eliminate unnecessary steps and delays for both the student and the Faculty Committee. Currently the student must plan a sequence of courses without information on when those courses might be offered. This has resulted in frequent changes and re-approvals of the curriculum plan for many students. In addition, this generates a great deal of extra work for the full Committee, which we now feel is not necessary.

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We believe that these changes make the Gerontology Certificate both more "student friendly" and more "faculty friendly," and do not change or diminish the broad academic goal of the Certificate nor the quality of the student's experience. We ask for your approval of these two changes in the requirements for the Gerontology Certificate.

If approved, the requirements for the Gerontology Certificate will be:

- An approved 3-credit course in each of the following areas: Biomedical/Health Services, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Policy and Planning.
- A 3-credit practicum or research project approved by the Faculty Committee, and
- One additional 3-credit course from the approved list of courses. A substitute gerontology-related course may be used with the approval of the Faculty Committee
- A minimum total of 15 graduate credits.
- A minimum GPA of 3.00 must be obtained in the course work taken for the Certificate.

A listing of the courses currently approved by the Faculty Committee for automatic use in the three gerontology sub-areas is provided below.

Biomedical/Health Services Courses

BIO/GRN 612	Biology of Aging
BSC/GRN 782	Women, Health, and Aging
GRN 770	Special Topics: Clinical Geriatrics Alzheimer's Disease Epidemiology of Aging
KHP 781	Exercise in Health and Disease and Aging
NFS 680	Nutrition and Aging
HSE/NUR 510	Older Women and Their Health
PAS 640	Survey of Geriatric Medicine
PHR 813/GRN 513	Geriatric Pharmacy
SW/GRN 643	Biomedical Aspects of Aging

(Other courses require prior approval by the Committee.)

Social and Behavioral Sciences Courses

ANT 580	Aging in Cross-Cultural Perspective
BSC 770	Psychosocial Issues in Aging and Health
BSC 772/GRN 770/PAS 875	Aging, Health and Decision Making
BSC 779	Behavioral Factors in Death and Dying
CJT 780	Communications and Aging
EDP 778	Adults as Learners
FAM 773	Special Topics: Personal Financial Issues in Aging
FAM/GRN 660	Aging and Family Values
GEO 465/GRN 770-02	Aging in Rural Environments
GEO/FAM/GRN 585	Aging and Environment
GEO 722	Spatial Experience and the Life Course
GRN 770	Special Topics: Psychology of Aging

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SOC 735 Social Policy and Aging
SOC 772 Alzheimer's Disease
SW 642 Topical Seminar in Social Inequality: Gender and Aging
SW613 Topical Seminar in Sociology: Dimensions of Aging
Psychological Aspects of Human Aging
Urban Ecology and Aging
(Other courses require prior approval by the Committee.)

Policy and Planning Courses

GRN 715 Health Policy and Aging
GRN 770 Special Topics: Social Policy and Aging
Ethics in Aging
HSM 510 Organization of the Long-Term Care Sector
SW 613 Urban Ecology and Aging
(Other courses require prior approval of the Committee.)

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November 7, 2002

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To: Douglass S. Kalika

From: James E. O'Reilly

Re: Changes in the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology

I have reviewed the request from Dr. Michael Smith, the Director of the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology, to make two changes in their requirements for the certificate.

- (1) They wish to eliminate the current requirement that the student take a specific "three-hour multidisciplinary overview course on aging". In its stead they wish to require the student to take at least one three-hour course in each of *three* separate sub-areas of gerontology, up from the current two courses in two sub-areas. This preserves the important objective of the interdisciplinary nature of the certificate.
- (2) They wish to eliminate the current *procedural* requirement that the student must have his/her plan of study and any subsequent changes to it **pre**-approved by the certificate's Faculty Committee, except for courses a student may wish to take that are not on their lengthy "approved" lists and for the required research project or practicum. This would lessen the formal bureaucracy and approval time for the student.

Their rationales are presented in their request.

It is my opinion that the changes requested are very straightforward, in the best interest of the student, and relatively minor. I can therefore recommend that you approve them. As there is really no substantive change being made in the basic requirements of the certificate and this is effectively a small liberalization for the student, I do not feel this requires a full review by the Graduate Council; but that is your call.

Approved

DSK 11/08/02

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