



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Dream · Challenge · Succeed

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Health Care Colleges Council

FROM: Linda A. Alexander, EdD
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Program Change Proposal – PhD in Gerontology

DATE: January 31, 2008

It is the intention of the Department of Gerontology/Graduate Center for Gerontology in the College of Public Health to institute significant changes in their PhD in Gerontology Program.

The modifications a revision of the core requirements and added courses based upon observations and feedback from students over the past 10 years. A record of consistently offering courses in the curriculum under the GRN 770 “special topics” course number now warrants new course proposals for them. The cover memo from Dr. John Watkins, DGS for the program, contains a full explanation of the program changes.

This program proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Academic Affairs Committee and the Faculty Council, according to our college’s established bylaws.

Further information about this course can be obtained by contacting the DGS, Dr. John Watkins, at 257-1450 ext 80240 or geg176@email.uky.edu.

UNIVERSITY SENATE REVIEW AND CONSULTATION SUMMARY SHEET

Proposal Title: Program Change Proposal – PhD in Gerontology

Proposal Contact: Dr. John Watkins, Director of Graduate Studies
306E Wethington Building 0200
257-1450 ext. 80240 geg176@email.uky.edu

Instruction: To facilitate the processing of this proposal please identify the groups or individuals reviewing the proposal, identify a contact person for each entry, provide the consequences of the review (specifically, approval, rejection, no decision and vote outcome, if any) and please attach a copy of any report or memorandum developed with comments on this proposal.

Reviewed By	Contact person	Consequences of Review	Date of Proposal Review	Review Summary Attached?
Gerontology Department	Graham Rowles, Chair	Approved	8-13-07	Yes
Academic Affairs Committee	Marta Mendiondo, Chair	Approved	12-6-07	Yes
Faculty Council	Glyn Caldwell, Chair	Approved	12-13-07	Yes
Office of Academic Affairs	Linda Alexander, Associate Dean	Approved	1-18-08	Yes

MEMORANDUM

August 13, 2007

To: CPH Academic Affairs Committee
CPH Faculty Council
Health Care Colleges Council
Graduate Council

From: John F. Watkins, DGS in Gerontology

RE: Curriculum Revisions

We respectfully submit the attached materials associated with revisions to the Ph.D. curriculum in Gerontology within the Graduate Center for Gerontology. There are two parts to the revision: a change in the overall program requirements; and a series of new courses and changes to existing courses.

Change in Program Requirements

Our program change reflects modifications geared towards enhancing student development and increasing timely completion of the Ph.D. program in Gerontology. Modifications are based on observations of and feedback from students over the past 10 years. A first modification is a revision of the core requirements, which includes: 1. the addition of GRN 612 (*Biology of Aging*)- recommended during our most recent external program review; 2. a reduction in credit hours for GRN 620 (*Aging and Adjustment*) to better reflect the student time involved in the course; and 3. ongoing enrollment in GRN 781 (*Student Development Practicum*) during the first five (5) semesters of residence – an addition recommended by the GRN administrative council to improve student seminar preparation for joining the workforce. In addition to these core curriculum changes, we have added GRN 656 (*Integrative Studies in Gerontology*) in order to promote holistic and integrative thinking among students within their individual research areas. We have also reduced the minimum elective credit hours to 15, but expanded the required number of credit hours in methods classes as recommended by current and former student comments and needs. A further modification is to add a pre-qualifying Core Assessment, which serves first to deepen the student's knowledge base and to provide a formal mechanism for evaluating knowledge competence, an important recommendation by Gerontology Administrative Council. A description of this core assessment is included as an appendix. Finally, we have dropped a host of formerly required independent studies and practica credits (GRN 782, 785, 790, and 791) that were found to be extraneous for Ph.D. students in Gerontology.

New Courses and Course Changes

Several new course and course change proposals are also part of our proposed Program change. First is the group comprised of: GRN 602, 617, 780, 781, 785, 786. These courses are structured as either practica or as independent studies (i.e. readings and research). As such, the particular faculty member charged with student supervision will vary according to student interests and faculty expertise and there are no formal syllabi for any of these courses. However, a “learning agreement” is composed for each individual student enrolling in these courses, and is included for review in the appendix. Second is a group comprised of GRN 612, 620, 650, 710, 715, 720. These are examples of courses in which changes are being requested. Most of these courses reflect minor changes and no syllabus is therefore required.

Our new courses being proposed are: GRN 602, 610, 616, 617, 644, 651, 653, 656, 704, 705, 731, 771, 772, 773, 774, 778, 783, 786. These courses have for several years been offered under a single generic “Special Topics” rubric – GRN 770. Our record of consistently offering these courses now warrants their formal inclusion, with distinct numbers and titles, in the books.

In addition we will require the addition of the new public health course when it becomes available.

Your expeditious review and approval of these materials is appreciated.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAM

Program:	Gerontology		
Department/Division:	Gerontology		
College:	Public Health	Bulletin pp.:	NA
Degree title(Old):	Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)	Degree (New):	Title Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
CIP Code:	30.1101		
Accrediting agency (if applicable):			

I. PROPOSED CHANGE(S) IN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS		
	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
1. Number of transfer credits allowed	None	None
2. Residence requirement (minimum of one year before and after Qualifying Exams)	one year before and one year after qualifying examination	one year before and one year after qualifying examination
3. Language(s) and/or skill(s) required	None	None
4. Provisions for monitoring progress and termination criteria	None	Annual web-based assessment of progress and development (see appendix)
5. Total credit hours required (if applicable)	42	45
6. Required courses (if applicable)	GRN 600, 620, 650, 780, 781, 782, 785, 790, 791 Plus 18 hours of electives	GRN 600, 612, 620, 650, 656; STA 570 or 580, 781 (5-hrs) Plus 15 hours of electives Plus 6 hours of advanced methods (e.g. biostats)
7. Required distribution of courses within program (if applicable)	None	None
8. Minor area or courses outside program required (if applicable)	None	None
9. Distribution of courses levels required (400G-500/600-700)		9-hours maximum at level 400G & 500
10. Qualifying examination requirements	Written component plus oral examination	Written component plus oral examination following oral pre-qualifying assessment (see appendix 1)
NOTE: To the extent that changes in 6. or 8. above involve additional courses in other programs, please include documentation from the program(s) pertaining to the availability of such courses.		

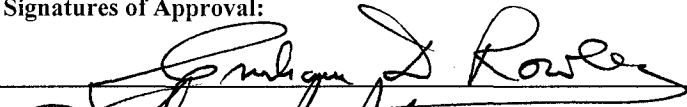
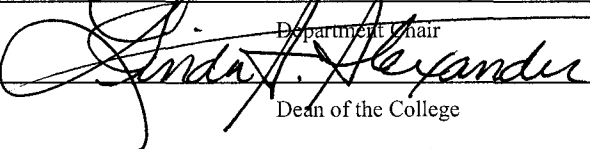

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAM

11. Other requirements not covered above
None

II. RATIONALE FOR CHANGE(S)
If the rationale involves accreditation requirements, please include specific references to those requirements.
This revision takes into account developments in the field of gerontology and in doctoral gerontology curricula over the past 10 years. It is further prompted by the addition of 4 new faculty over at least the last 6 years (Guttmann, Jacobs-Lawson, Teaster, Zanjani) and their respective expertise within the field. We recognize our need to maintain an ability to compete nationally for the best students, and this program change reflects these efforts.

The original curriculum made it difficult for students to effectively concentrate on identifying and initiating their dissertation work in a timely fashion. The new curriculum is more streamlined and better emphasizes development of holistic and integrative research skills.

Signatures of Approval:

 Department Chair	2/19/08
 Dean of the College	Date 2-19-08
	Date
	Date of Notice to the Faculty
*Undergraduate Council	Date
*University Studies	Date
*Graduate Council	Date
 *Academic Council for the Medical Center	Date 2/20/08
*Senate Council	Date of Notice to Univ. Senate

*If applicable, as provided by the Rules of the University Senate

ACTION OTHER THAN APPROVAL:

May, 2007

Appendix 1 Gerontology Core Examination

All students must sit for a 'Gerontology Core Examination' at the completion of all required coursework, and before scheduling the qualifying examination. The purpose of this examination is to ensure that students are capable of articulating and synthesizing central and fundamental aspects of gerontology along the spectrum from cell to society.

Core exams will be scheduled twice a year (December and May) during finals week, although students may petition to schedule the examination at another time in the event of extenuating circumstances.

The examination will be oral in format, and will be administered by an examination panel comprised of a minimum of 4 members, all of whom will be gerontology faculty and the majority of whom will be core faculty.¹ An individual exam will last approximately 90 minutes, with the outcome being recorded as Satisfactory (S), Unsatisfactory (U), or Incomplete. A student who has not demonstrated proficiency during her/his first attempt at the exam will receive an Incomplete. Remediation to remove the incomplete must occur within 12 months, and may include: (a) written follow-up by the student addressing deficiencies; and/or (b) sitting for a second oral core examination. Lack of demonstrated proficiency at a second oral examination will be recorded as unsatisfactory. A third examination is not allowed.

~~~~~

### Notes:

1. Having a majority of members being from the core allows not only clinical representation (e.g., Nancy) but an affiliate faculty who might have been instrumental in core class instruction (e.g., Anne).

**Request to Schedule Oral Assessment**  
**Graduate Center for Gerontology**

---

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SID#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Advisor Name(printed):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Advisor Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Submission Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Requested date of assessment:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Instructions:** This form must be submitted to the Director of Graduate Studies (Gerontology) no later than two weeks prior to the requested assessment date in either December or May. Requests to schedule an assessment during an alternative time should be explained below.

---

**DGS Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_Original Topic  
\_\_\_Change in Topic

Semester/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

*PhD Program in Gerontology  
306 Health Sciences Bldg  
900 S. Limestone*

*University of Kentucky  
Lexington, KY 40536-0200*

## **INDEPENDENT STUDY INFORMATION SHEET**

(To be completed by student and faculty/staff supervisor)

Course Number and Section \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SS#: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty/Staff Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Descriptive Title of Independent Study

---

*Summarize below: (1) the central theme(s) of the study; (2) learning goals and/or expected outcomes of the study; (3) means of evaluating student progress and learning. Include where appropriate scheduled student/supervisor meeting dates, evaluation dates, and deadlines.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Supervisor Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**The student and supervisor should maintain a copy of this form,  
with the original submitted to The Director of Graduate Studies.**