

MAJOR IN GERONTOLOGY

Towson University offers an undergraduate degree program leading either to the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree in Gerontology. The course work is multidisciplinary and provides students with an understanding of the scope of gerontology, the issues that are central to the study of aging, and a perspective from which students may understand the phenomenon of human aging and its implications for families and society. The program is designed to prepare students for entry-level professional positions in the field of aging, social services, and aging policy, as well as provide the knowledge and skills necessary for graduate and professional schools.

Transfer Credit Policy

Students may transfer no more than 18 credits toward the major in Gerontology. Transfer credits must be approved by the department.

Honorary Society

Sigma Phi Omega, the national honor society in gerontology, has established the Delta Rho Chapter at Towson University. The purpose of the society is to recognize excellence in the academic standing of students studying or majoring in gerontology and to provide enriched opportunities and service activities for members. The faculty adviser is Mary W. Carter, Ph.D., 410-704-4643/mcarter@towson.edu (etakagi@towson.edu).

Students pursuing a degree in Gerontology must complete a minimum of 45 units in the program as outlined below and maintain a 2.00 GPA or better in all required courses. Required elective courses must be approved by the students Gerontology adviser.

Code	Title	Units
Required Courses		
GERO 101	INTRODUCTION TO GERONTOLOGY	3
GERO 350	PHYSICAL HEALTH AND AGING	3
GERO 397	GERONTOLOGY INTERNSHIP	3-6
GERO 485	GERONTOLOGY SENIOR SEMINAR	3
PSYC 405	PSYCHOLOGY OF AGING	3
SOCI 359	SOCIAL GERONTOLOGY	3
Required Methods Courses		
Select a Research Methods course (approved by Gerontology adviser)		3-4
Select a Social or Behavioral Statistics course (approved by Gerontology adviser)		3-4
Elective Upper-Level Courses		
Select four of the following:		12
GERO 367	DEATH, DYING AND BEREAVEMENT	
GERO 450	DIRECTED READINGS IN GERONTOLOGY	
HLTH 311	CHRONIC AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASE	
HCMN 417	LONG-TERM CARE ETHICAL PROBLEMS	
HCMN 419	LONG-TERM CARE ADMINISTRATION	
HLTH 331	NUTRITION FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS	
KNES 455	PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMMING FOR THE OLDER ADULT	
LEGL 326	ELDER LAW	
SOCI 329	DEMOGRAPHY	

WMST 341	WOMEN AND AGING	
Or other upper-level courses approved by Gerontology adviser		
Cognate Electives		
Select three of the following: ¹		9
ANTH 207	CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY	
ANTH 209	ANTHROPOLOGY OF AMERICAN CULTURE	
ANTH 211	HONORS ANTHROPOLOGY OF AMERICAN CULTURE	
HLTH 101	WELLNESS FOR A DIVERSE SOCIETY	
HLTH 204	NUTRITION AND WEIGHT CONTROL FOR THE CONSUMER	
HLTH 207	HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S.	
HLTH 208	MENTAL HEALTH, STRESS MANAGEMENT, AND CRISIS INTERVENTION	
KNES 107	CARDIOVASCULAR FITNESS	
OCTH 216	LIFE SPAN ADAPTATION AND OCCUPATIONS	
PSYC 203	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	
SOCI 101	INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY	
Total Units		45-50

¹ Additional courses may be counted as Gerontology cognate electives at the discretion of the Gerontology program director.

Suggested Four-Year Plan

Based on course availability and student needs and preferences, the selected sequences will probably vary from those presented below. Students should consult with their adviser to make the most appropriate elective choices.

Freshman		
Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
GERO 101	3 ENGL 102 (Core 2)	3
HLTH 101 (Core)	3 SOCI 101 (Core and Prerequisite)	3
PSYC 101 (Core)	3 HLTH 207 (Core and Prerequisite)	3
TSEM 102 (Core 1)	3 Core	3
Core	3 Core	3
		15
		15
Sophomore		
Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
GERO 350	3 SOCI 359	3
PSYC 203	3 Approved Statistics Course	3
Approved Methods Course	3 Core	3
Core	3 Core	3
Core	3 Core	3
		15
		15
Junior		
Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
PSYC 405	3 Upper-Level Elective	3
Upper-Level Elective	3 Upper-Level Elective	3
Upper-Level Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3

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Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	15
Senior		
Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
GERO 485	3 GERO 397	3-9
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	15-21

Total Units 120-126

1. Understand the fundamental concepts of the discipline and dismiss inaccurate stereotypes associated with aging.
2. Communicate effectively with a variety of audiences, both orally and in writing.
3. Think critically. Be able to evaluate policies and social services for older adults in an aging world.
4. Demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in careers and graduate programs related to gerontology.