**Master of Arts in Gerontology**

**Program Director**

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**Program Description**

The curriculum is designed from an interdisciplinary perspective of gerontology with a focus on epidemiology and health. This program will provide students with advanced education in issues facing older adults, for the purpose of preparing them for advancement in the field of gerontology. The program allows for a Thesis or a Non-Thesis track based upon the students’ desires and goals. The program consists of 42 semester hours, which may be completed in four semesters of full-time coursework or six semesters part time.

Faculty research interests

**William Binning**, Ph.D., Interim Chair and Professor Emeritus of Political Science
State health policy for the aged

**Julie Blaskewicz Boron**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department
Cognitive aging, cognitive change, emotion, personality, and cognitive interventions.

**Suzanne M. Leson**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in Human Ecology, Food and Nutrition, and Director of the Coordinated Program in Dietetics
Gerontology education of healthcare and service professionals working with older adults, long-term care culture change, and food systems management in skilled nursing facilities.

**Min Li**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Gerontology
Medical sociology, social gerontology and social epidemiology.

**Nicky Newton**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department
Personality psychology, gender differences in adult development with an emphasis on social roles and health and well-being outcomes.

**Lee Slivinske**, Ph.D., Professor in the Department of Social Work and Coordinator of the Nursing Home Administration Program
Evaluating the effectiveness of the Trumbull County Protective and Advocacy Network.

**Daniel J. Van Dussen**, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Director in Gerontology
Social and psychological determinants of health among older adults, the family, social support, statistics and methods.

**Amy Weaver**, MSN, Instructor of Nursing
Simulation, debriefing, and gerontology.
Admission Requirements

In addition to the minimum criteria set by the School of Graduate Studies and Research, applicants must meet the following requirements for full admission:

1) A cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale).
2) A satisfactory score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
3) Three (3) letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the students’ academic or professional background.
4) A letter of intent stating their objectives for seeking a Master's Degree in Gerontology and how this program will help them fulfill their goals.
5) A personal interview is optional.
6) A Resume or Curriculum Vitae.
7) A social statistics course at the undergraduate or graduate level.
8) A minimum of 9 credit hours of aging related coursework at the undergraduate or graduate level.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts in Gerontology will consist of 12 courses (36 credit hours) which can be completed over a 2 academic year period.

Coursework

Core Courses:

- GER 6905 Social Gerontology 3 s.h.
- GER 6915 Service Delivery and Aging/Policy 3 s.h.
- PSYC 6957 Adult Development 3 s.h.
- GER 6906 Perspectives in Gerontology 3 s.h.
- GER 6960 Epidemiology of Aging 3 s.h.
- GER 6999 Research Methods 3 s.h.
- GER/NURS 6998 Anatomy and Physiology of Aging 3 s.h.
- GER 7090 Field Practicum 3 s.h.
- GER 7094 Selected Topics 3 s.h.

Thesis vs. Non-Thesis Track

Students may choose to do a thesis
OR
Three additional hours in field practicum
AND
One additional elective for the non-thesis track. The non-thesis track is designed for those who are less likely to continue for a Ph.D.

Elective courses (choose 6 s.h.)

- PSYC/GER 6959 Behavior Change, Intervention, and Aging 3 s.h.
- GER 7001 Long-Term Care 3 s.h.
- SCWK 7006 Social Work in Aging 3 s.h.
- PSYC/GER 7011 Mental Health and Aging 3 s.h.
- GER 7099 Thesis 6 s.h.
- GER 7090 Field Practicum 3 s.h.
- GER 7094 Selected Topics in Gerontology 3 s.h.