

## INTRODUCTION

Gerontology is the study of aging from a multi-disciplinary perspective. It examines specific changes common to older adults as well as the broader social issues. Both the normal and the problematic aspects of aging are considered. In addition to education and research about adulthood and aging, practice is emphasized in order to provide services more effectively to older adults and their families. The population of the United States is growing older. It is estimated that in the year 2020, one in five persons will be sixty-five or older. The increasing numbers of elderly persons will mean an increasing demand for professionals with the skills and insight gained from training in gerontology. Gerontology also helps individuals understand their own aging and how to age successfully. Personal concerns about the aging of family members may also be pursued in gerontological studies.

Career opportunities exist for gerontologists in such fields as Administration, Audiology/Speech Pathology, Counseling, Education, Environmental Design, Health Care, Industrial Gerontology, Nursing, Mental Health, Media/Marketing, Ministry, Public Health, Recreation/Leisure Services.

## WHAT IS A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GERONTOLOGY?

The University of Akron and Kent State University – along with approximately 350 other college and university programs that belong to the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education – offer Certificates in Gerontology. The graduate certificate may be received with degrees at either the Specialist's, Master's or Doctoral levels. Students are able to receive basic preparation in their selected discipline or major, while also obtaining specialized training in gerontology through the certificate program.

The knowledge and skills gained through the certificate program enhance the student's employability and performance in a wide variety of work settings involving gerontological practice, research, or policy. See [www.careerinaging.com](http://www.careerinaging.com).

Kent State University also provides a Bachelor of Science and Masters degree in gerontology and the University of Akron offers an Undergraduate Certificate in Gerontology as alternative approaches to obtaining gerontological education. If this is your interest, we will be happy to discuss and recommend such programs. Visit our websites: [www.uakron.edu/ilsd](http://www.uakron.edu/ilsd) or [www.kent.edu/f&cs](http://www.kent.edu/f&cs).

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

In order to be eligible for the Graduate Gerontology Certificate Program a student must be accepted into a specialist Master's or Doctoral degree program or hold a graduate degree from an accredited institution. Students may also be admitted with nondegree status, but they must complete a graduate degree program prior to being awarded the certificate.

The certificate requires 18 credit hours of graduate course work:

a) Interdisciplinary Seminar	3 credits
b) Psychosocial Gerontology	3 credits
c) Research Methods	3 credits
d) Biology of Aging or Physiology of Aging or Equivalent	3 credits
e) Electives	3 credits
f) Research or Practicum	3 credits
TOTAL	18 credits

The student's thesis or dissertation may be applied toward the certificate requirements if it is on an aging-related topic. At least twelve of the required hours are to carry 600-level (University of Akron), 60000-level (Kent State University) or above designation. A maximum of three credit hours may be transferred from outside the university.

## WHY STUDY GERONTOLOGY IN THE COMBINED UNIVERSITY OF AKRON and KENT STATE UNIVERSITY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM?

### *I. A Wide Availability of Gerontology Courses to Choose From*

For over two decades, The University of Akron and Kent State University have been committed to gerontological education, research and service. Combined, these two Universities offer a diverse range of graduate courses with aging-related content that may be applied to Certificate requirements. Students enrolled at the University of Akron or Kent State University may apply coursework completed at either institution to their Certificate Program. The Universities are located within a short 15 minute drive from each other.

### *II. Outstanding Gerontology Faculty*

The faculty at both Universities are nationally and internationally recognized scholars in gerontology. Many are Fellows of the Gerontological Society of America. ([www.geron.org](http://www.geron.org)). Faculty are available to assist students with course selection, research projects, and other matters of interest in the field of Gerontology. The Certificate Directors are also available and should be consulted at the outset. (see reverse).

### *III. Program Flexibility and Quality*

The graduate certificate program is flexible with minimal required courses beyond those needed to complete degree requirements, and students may tailor the courses they take toward completion of the Certificate Program to meet their unique professional interests.

This Combined Certificate Program is based on the recommended standards of excellence established by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education.

## IS THE STUDY OF GERONTOLOGY COMPATIBLE WITH MY DEGREE?

Past students have obtained a Certificate in Gerontology in conjunction with their graduate degrees in such disciplines as:

- Audiology and Speech
- Biological Sciences
- Business Administration
- Communication Studies
- Counseling/Community Counseling
- Education/Health Education
- Exercise, Leisure, and Sport
- Family Studies and Child Development
- Management
- Marketing
- Nursing
- Psychology
- Public Health
- Sociology
- Social Work

## WHEN IS THE CERTIFICATE AWARDED?

Certificates are awarded in conjunction with a degree earned in any discipline and upon completion of certificate requirements. Certificate completion is acknowledged by special notation on student transcripts.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

You can obtain an application form for the certificate from your college office or the directors of the Gerontology Certificate Program. Completed forms may be mailed to either Dr. Harvey Sterns (University of Akron) or Dr. Gregory Smith (Kent State University) at the below address.



### For Additional Information about the combined University of Akron/Kent State University Graduate Certificate in Gerontology contact:

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[www.kent.edu/f&cs](http://www.kent.edu/f&cs) or  
[www.uakron.edu/ilsd](http://www.uakron.edu/ilsd)



## Combined Graduate Certificate in Gerontology Program

The University of Akron  
and  
Kent State University

