

GERONTOLOGY

pcc.edu/programs/gerontology

CAREER AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Careers in the field of aging are among the fastest growing and exciting opportunities in the 21st century workplace. Exponential growth is expected in all service-providing industries related to aging, particularly in the health care services continuum, financial and legal services, leisure, life-long learning, hospitality, fitness, and wellness areas.

PCC's Gerontology program is offered fully online and designed for individuals who wish to develop careers in the field of aging, those already employed or active in gerontology or related fields who wish to enhance their career paths, and those seeking challenging and meaningful career changes in response to new opportunities created by an aging society. Students participating in this program will develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and research skills through multi-disciplinary core courses and electives tailored toward their career goals. Internships, mentorships, and career coaching will prepare students to create individualized career paths.

Students may earn a Gerontology Professional Career Pathway Certificate alone or in conjunction with the Gerontology AAS. Students may also earn the degree or certificate in conjunction with a certificate or degree in other PCC programs such as exercise science, interior design, human services, the allied health field, nursing, business, management, paralegal studies, or alcohol and drug counseling. In most cases, students earning the Gerontology AAS can enter human services, social work, social sciences, community health and similar Bachelor level programs as juniors.

DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES OFFERED

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE

Gerontology

LESS THAN ONE-YEAR: CAREER PATHWAY CERTIFICATE

Gerontology Professional

Academic Prerequisites

- Candidates should be ready to enter WR 121Z and MTH 20 for any certificate and MTH 58/MTH 65 for the degree (demonstrated through placement tests or documented previous college level work.) Those candidates with insufficient background to enter at this level may need to extend the time it takes to complete the program. Faculty advisors will provide information regarding preparatory course work options.

Academic Requirements

- Career pathway certificate credits count toward the AAS degree requirements. Students earning the AAS degree in gerontology must meet college graduation requirements including general education, math and English competencies. The core courses provide basic knowledge about aging in several important domains.
- Students should take GRN 181 in their first or second term in the program.
- GRN 280A provides a unique opportunity for students to work directly with older adults in their career interest area.
- Degree and certificate candidates who have related work experience with aging adults may petition to waive one credit for every 70 hours worked toward the required internship credits, typically up to a total of three credits.

Non-Academic Prerequisites

- None

Non-Academic Requirements

- None

GERONTOLOGY AAS DEGREE

Minimum 90 credits. Students must also meet Associate Degree Comprehensive Requirements and Associate of Applied Science Requirements. Students must complete a total of four courses of General Education. Some courses specified within the program may be used as General Education. In addition to required courses in the program of study, students must satisfy MTH 58/65 competency. Students should consult with program advisors for course planning.

Gerontology Degree Courses

Code	Title	Credits
GRN 175	The Aging Mind	2
GRN 181	Exploring the Field of Aging	3
GRN 201	Understanding and Ending Ageism	3
GRN 280A	CE: Gerontology Internship ^{1,2}	6
or FT 280	Exercise Science Internship I	
GRN 282	Gerontology Professional Seminar	2
PHL 207	Ethics and Aging [*]	4
PSY 236	Psychology of Adult Development and Aging	4
SOC 223	Sociology of the Life Course [*]	4
SOC 230	Introduction to Gerontology [*]	4
SOC 231	Sociology of Healthy Aging [*]	4
SOC 232	Death and Dying: Culture and Issues [*]	4
or SOC 234	Death: Crosscultural Perspectives	
Gerontology Program Electives		40
General Education: 2 courses		
WR 121	Composition I (WR121=WR121Z) (or any WR course for which WR 121 is a prerequisite) ²	4
Total Credits		90

*

Could be used as General Education

1

Students may choose to take GRN 280A for 6 credits or FT 280 for 8 credits

2

Degree candidates who have related work experience with aging adults may petition to substitute one credit for every 70 hours worked toward the required internship credits.

Z

This course is part of Oregon Common Course Numbering. WR 121 and WR 121Z are equivalent.

GERONTOLOGY PROGRAM ELECTIVES*

Code	Title	Credits
AD 101	Addiction	3
AD 102	Drug Use and Addiction	3
AD 105	Aging & Addiction	3
AD 154	Client Record Management and Addiction	3
AD 156	Professional Ethics and Issues in Addiction Counseling	3

BA 101	Introduction to Business (BA101=BA101Z) ^Z	4	LAT 109	Plant Propagation	3
BA 150	Intro to Entrepreneurship	4	LAT 250	Plant Health Care	3
BA 208	Introduction to Nonprofits & Philanthropy	4	MP 108	Healthcare Career Essentials	3
BA 209	Introduction to Grant Writing	4	MP 111	Medical Terminology	4
BI 120	Survey of Body Systems	5	MP 135	Pharmacology for Allied Health	3
COMM 100	Introduction to Communication (COMM100=COMM100Z) ^Z	4	MP 140	Introduction to Health Law and Ethics	3
COMM 105	Listening	4	PSY 101	Psychology and Human Relations *	4
COMM 111	Public Speaking (COMM111=COMM111Z) ^Z	4	PSY 201A	Introduction to Psychology I (PSY201A=PSY201AZ) ^{*,Z}	4
COMM 111H	Public Speaking: Honors (COMM111H=COMM111HZ) ^Z	4	PSY 202A	Introduction to Psychology II (PSY202A=PSY202AZ) ^{*,Z}	4
COMM 140	Introduction to Intercultural Communication	4	PSY 213	Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience	4
COMM 215	Communicating in Teams and Small Groups	4	PSY 214	Introduction to Personality *	4
COMM 218	Interpersonal Communication (COMM214=COMM218=COMM218Z) ^Z	4	PSY 215	Human Development *	4
FN 110	Personal Nutrition	3	PSY 216	Social Psychology	4
FN 211	Personal & Social Frameworks for Nutrition & Healthy Aging	3	PSY 222	Family & Intimate Relationships *	4
FT 100	Emergency Response for Fitness Professionals ¹	1	PSY 231	Foundations of Human Sexuality *	4
FT 106	Analysis of Movement	3	PSY 232	Human Sexuality in Social Context *	4
FT 110	Injury Prevention & Management ¹	2	PSY 239	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology	4
FT 131	Structure & Function of the Human Body	4	PSY 240	Personal Awareness and Growth	4
FT 202	Fitness and Aging	3	SOC 204	Introduction to Sociology *	4
GRN 233	Supporting End of Life	4	SOC 205	Social Change *	4
GRN 234	Introduction to Dementia Care & Practice	4	SOC 206	Social Problems *	4
GRN 240	Care and Service Coordination	3	SOC 211	Peace and Conflict Studies	4
GRN 247	Applied Legal and Policy Issues in Aging	3	SOC 213	Diversity in the United States *	4
GRN 280A	CE: Gerontology Internship (credits earned above the required 6 can count as Gerontology Elective credits)	1-3	SOC 214A	Illumination Project I: Interactive Social Justice Theater	4
HE 112	Standard First Aid and Emergency Care	1	SOC 214B	Illumination Project II: Interactive Social Justice Theater	4
HE 207	Seminar in Biomedical, Behavioral and Health Sciences	1	SOC 214C	Illumination Project III: Interactive Social Justice Theater	4
HE 212	Women's Health	4	SOC 215	Social Movements	4
HE 213	Men's Health	4	SOC 218	Sociology of Gender *	4
HE 242	Stress and Human Health	4	SOC 219	Introduction to Sociology of Religion	4
HE 250	Personal Health	3	SOC 221	Globalization and International Relations	4
HE 251	Community and Public Health	4	SOC 228	Introduction to Environmental Sociology	4
HE 252	First Aid - Basics and Beyond	4			
HE 254	Weight Management and Personal Health	3			
HE 255	Health, Film, and Media	4			
HE 264	Food Systems and Public Health	4			
HE 278	Human Health and the Environment	3			
HE 295	Health and Fitness for Life	3			
& PE 295	and Health and Fitness for Life Lab	3			
HIM 182	Healthcare Delivery Systems	3			
HUS 101	Introduction to Human Services	3			
HUS 102	Mental Health First Aid: Adult	1			
HUS 107	Mental Health First Aid: Older Adult	1			
HUS 121	Family and Human Systems	3			
HUS 131	Models and Systems of Human Service Delivery	3			
HUS 141	Direct Service Methods	3			
LAT 106	Plant Anatomy and Physiology	4			

* In order to meet the credit minimum for the degree requirements, some courses may count toward electives or General Education, but not both.

¹

FT 100 and FT 110 requirement can be met by the completion of FT 102.

^Z

This course is part of Oregon Common Course Numbering. The following courses are equivalent:

BA 101 and BA 101Z

COMM 100 and COMM 100Z

COMM 111 and COMM 111Z

COMM 111H and COMM 111HZ

COMM 214, COMM 218, and COMM 218Z

PSY 201A and PSY 201AZ

PSY 202A and PSY 202AZ

LESS THAN ONE-YEAR: CAREER PATHWAY CERTIFICATE

Gerontology Professional (p. 3)

**GERONTOLOGY PROFESSIONAL CAREER
PATHWAY CERTIFICATE**

Minimum 39 credits. Students must meet all certificate requirements.
The Gerontology Professional Certificate is a Career Pathway. All
courses are contained in the Gerontology AAS Degree.

Gerontology Professional Certificate Courses

Code	Title	Credits
GRN 175	The Aging Mind	2
GRN 181	Exploring the Field of Aging	3
GRN 201	Understanding and Ending Ageism	3
GRN 233	Supporting End of Life	4
GRN 234	Introduction to Dementia Care & Practice	4
GRN 240	Care and Service Coordination	3
GRN 280A	CE: Gerontology Internship (2 credits total)	2
GRN 247	Applied Legal and Policy Issues in Aging	3
GRN 282	Gerontology Professional Seminar	2
HUS 107	Mental Health First Aid: Older Adult	1
or HUS 102	Mental Health First Aid: Adult	
SOC 223	Sociology of the Life Course	4
SOC 230	Introduction to Gerontology	4
SOC 231	Sociology of Healthy Aging	4
Total Credits		39