



School of Social Work

Challenging Minds, Leading Change, Transforming Lives

Graduate Certificate Program In Gerontology

This program is designed for students have either:

1) completed a Master's degree or higher qualification from an accredited institution or 2) are actively pursuing a graduate program at Wayne State University (Master's degree or higher).

1. Program Information

The Certificate Program is a multi-disciplinary program administered through the School of Social Work. The program is designed to prepare graduate students, individual practitioners, and professionals to work in the field of aging in a variety of settings, integrating gerontology into the student's primary discipline. Adding the gerontology certificate to existing educational and/or work experience is likely to enhance an individual's career opportunities and options.

Program Goals

Completion of the program will develop and/or enhance knowledge in a number of areas to include:

1. Psychological aspects of aging in the context of human development
2. Aging in a political and economic context
3. Health, biological and physiological aspects of aging
4. Provisions of services to older persons in a variety of settings
5. Communication with older persons
6. Public policy and administration of programs for older adults.

2. Admission

a) Prerequisites

For admission into the Graduate Gerontology Certificate Program, the applicant must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Meet Wayne State University Graduate School admission standards
2. **Hold a master's degree from an accredited educational institution or be actively pursuing a master's or doctoral degree at Wayne State University**
3. **Have a combined undergraduate and graduate GPA of 2.75 or above on a 4.0 scale**

b) Policies:

All applicants are evaluated according to the following rubric. To be eligible for admission students must score a minimum of 70 or above. The admissions decisions are made by the Coordinator of the Gerontology Certificate program, the Program Advisor, and/or the Associate Dean of Wayne State University School of Social Work. Gerontology faculty may also be included in admissions decision.

Gerontology Certificate Program

Admissions Rubric*

Name of Applicant:

Have you met the basic application requirements? Please check below:

1. Hold a master's degree from an accredited educational institution or be actively pursuing a master's or doctoral degree at Wayne State University?

YES (continue to rubric below)

NO (if applicant does not hold a master's degree from an accredited education institution or be actively pursuing a master's or doctoral degree at Wayne State University, admission will be denied and the rubric will not be completed)

2. Grade point average
Applicant has 2.75 or above cumulative GPA

YES (continue to rubric below)

___NO (if GPA is not 2.75 or above, the applicant will be denied admission and the rubric will not be completed)

3. Admissions Rubric

Standards	1	2	3	4	5	Weight**	Total possible score	Applicant Score
Writing skills as evidenced in the Personal Interest Statement						X3	15	
Commitment to gerontology as evidenced in the Personal Interest Statement						X9	45	
Candidate letters of reference						X4	20	
Candidate level of professional or volunteer experience in gerontology***						X4	20	
TOTAL							100	

*This rubric is based on a point scale of 1-5, with 1 reflecting a low score on the item and 5 indicating a high score on the item

**A weight reflects the amount of emphasis that is placed on a given category. For example, a score of 5 on 'commitment to gerontology' is multiplied by 9, to give a total possible score of 45 for this category.

***Volunteer experience can include informal caregiving (care provided to a friend or relative)

Total Score _____

Reviewed by _____

c) Application Process

A. Current Wayne State University graduate students and those with a graduate degree from Wayne State:

Those previously enrolled in any graduate program at Wayne State University (other than as a Guest or Permit to Register student) and registered for classes do not need to reapply to the Graduate School.

- a. Complete the gerontology certificate program application process. The application form and other materials required for admission to the Gerontology Certificate Program can be obtained online at <https://socialwork.wayne.edu/certificate/gerontology.php>. For additional information contact gero_cert@lists.wayne.edu or by calling 313-577-4409.
- b. Complete the Graduate Gerontology Certificate Program Application Form
- c. Attach a current resume not to exceed two pages
- d. Complete the Statement of Professional Goals form describing the applicant's interest in Gerontology and career goals.
- e. Submit three letters of reference, including one academic reference and two references from individuals who can speak to the applicant's interest and ability to work with older adults, using the forms provided in the application packet
- f. Submit transcripts for all undergraduate and graduate programs (unofficial transcripts are acceptable for submission to the Gerontology Certificate Program. However, note that official transcripts are required for Graduate School admission (item B)).
- g. Send the completed application packet including all of the above to:

Gerontology Certificate Program Advisor
School of Social Work, Wayne State University
4756 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202

- h. Once accepted to the Certificate program, the student will need to schedule an appointment to participate in a personal interview with the Gerontology Certificate Program Advisor to develop an official Plan of Work.

B. Applicants who are not Wayne State University graduate students or WSU graduate alumni must submit an application for admission to the Graduate School before applying to this program.

The following steps need to be followed to apply to the Graduate School:

- Complete the Graduate Admissions Application Form online at <http://gradapply.wayne.edu>
- Request Official transcripts from ALL previous colleges or universities attended to be sent directly from the institutions to the WSU Office of Graduate Admissions at the address below:

Office of Graduate Admissions
Wayne State University
5057 Woodward

Suite 6000
Detroit, MI 48202

- Attach a current resume not to exceed two pages
- Complete the Statement of Professional Goals online describing the applicant's interest in Gerontology and career goals
- Submit three letters of references online, including one academic reference and two references from individuals who can speak to the applicant's interest and ability to work with older adults, using the templates provided

Applications are accepted throughout the year and students may begin the program in any term. In order to ensure that the application is processed in time for the term in which the applicant wants to begin the program, applications should be submitted by the following dates:

Application Priority Deadlines:

October 15: For students starting in the Winter Term

January 15: For students starting in the Spring/Summer term

March 15: For students starting in the Fall Term

Please contact the gerontology certificate program advisor at gero_cert@lists.wayne.edu or at 313-577-4409 with any questions about the program or the application process.

3. Program Requirements

To earn the Graduate Gerontology Certificate, the student must successfully complete 12 credits of approved courses for the Certificate Program (see course list). Course work consists of one core course, Introduction to Gerontology, and nine other credits in three additional categories. In the personal interview, the student and the admissions coordinator develop the Plan of Work for the course work based on the student's background, major areas of concentration, and career goals.

The program must be completed within three years. Most students enroll in one or two courses per term. Courses are offered by departments throughout the university and may be offered in the late afternoon or evening. Most courses are offered once per year. Up to nine of the 12 credits may be applied to both

the Certificate and the graduate degree, subject to approval of the relevant academic department and the graduate school.

Graduation Requirements

All coursework must be completed in accordance with the regulations of the Graduate School and the School of Social Work. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA in the Certificate coursework and complete twelve credits of approved courses within four years to earn the graduate certificate. If the student has already completed a master's degree, the certificate is awarded when the student has met all the certificate requirements. If the student is earning the certificate concurrently with a master's degree, the certificate is awarded when all the requirements of the certificate and the degree have been met.