GERONTOLOGY (GEY)

Gerontology is the study of the process of human aging in all its many aspects: physical, psychological, and social. In the School of Aging Studies, the academic home of the gerontology programs, particular emphasis is placed upon applied gerontology, with the goal of educating students who in their professional careers will work to sustain or improve the quality of life of older persons. Since Gerontology is an interdisciplinary field, dual majors with other departments are encouraged. The School of Aging offers the degrees of Bachelor of Arts in Gerontology, Bachelor of Science in Gerontology, a minor in Gerontology, and Master of Arts in Gerontology. The School of Aging also hosts the university-wide Ph.D. in Aging Studies, and offers 4 graduate certificates in Gerontology.

Prerequisites (State Mandated Common Prerequisites)

Students wishing to transfer to USF should complete the A.A. degree at the community college. Some courses required for the major may also meet General Education Requirements thereby transferring maximum hours to the university. If students transfer with fewer than 60 semester hours of acceptable credit, the students must meet the university’s entering freshman requirements including ACT or SAT test scores, GPA, and course requirements. The transfer student should also be aware of the immunization, foreign language, and continuous enrollment policies of the university.

For those seeking the Bachelor of Science degree, students complete the prerequisite courses listed below. Unless stated otherwise, a grade of “C” is the minimum acceptable grade.

ACG X021 Financial Accounting or ACG X001
ACG X071 Managerial Accounting or ACG X011
or ACG X630
CSG X000 Computers in Business or EME X402,
COC X317, CSG X101, X361, X001, X060,
or CGS 1061
GEY X000 Introduction to Gerontology
STAX122 Social Science Statistics or QMB 2150,
STA 2022, STA X013, STA X014,
STA X040, STA X023, STA X024,
or QMB X100

For those seeking the Bachelor of Arts degree, students should complete STA X122 (Social Science Statistics) at the lower level prior to entering the university. If this course is not taken at the community college, it must be completed before the degree is granted. A grade of “C” is the minimum acceptable grade. Acceptable substitutes for STA X122 or QMB 2150 or QMB X100, STA 2022, STA X013, X014, X040, X023, or X024. There are no other common prerequisites for the Gerontology program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree.

Requirements for the Major in Gerontology (B.A.)

The Bachelor of Arts Degree in Gerontology entails 36 semester hours of required course work. In this program the course of study is intended to provide students with a liberal education in gerontology and some exposure to the various career opportunities in the field of aging. This degree is especially appropriate for students who plan to pursue graduate or professional work in gerontology, or some other field, or who plan to work with older adults in careers in areas such as case management, social services, or activity therapy. A grade of lower than “C-” in Gerontology courses will not be counted toward fulfilling the requirements for the major.

Required Courses:

GEY 2000 Introduction to Gerontology (3)
GEY 3601 Physical Changes and Aging (3)
GEY 3625 Sociocultural Aspects of Aging (3)
GEY 4401 Research Methods in Gerontology (3)
GEY 4612 Psychology of Aging (3)

A required prerequisite is STA 2122.

B.A. students complete 21 additional elective hours, which may include field placement. Students should meet frequently with the departmental advisor to plan courses and field work that will prepare the student for career goals.

Requirements for the Major in Gerontology (B.S.)

The Bachelor of Science Degree in Gerontology is a 39 semester hour specialist degree which, in addition to providing students with a basic education in gerontology, is intended to prepare them for entry level positions in Nursing Home Administration. It is especially appropriate for students who intend to begin working immediately following completion of the degree program. A grade of lower than “C-” in Gerontology courses will not be counted toward fulfilling the requirements for the major.

Required courses:

BUL 3320 Law and Business I (3)
GEY 3601 Physical Changes and Aging (3)
GEY 4327 Long Term Care Administration I (3)
GEY 4328 Long Term Care Administration II (3)
GEY 4329 Long Term Care Administration III (3)
GEY 4360 Gerontological Counseling (3)
GEY 4641 Death and Dying (3)
GEY 4945 Field Placement (9)
MAN 3025 Principles of Management (3)
MAN 3240 Organizational Behavior Analysis (3)
MAN 3301 Human Resource Management (3)

Students also complete the following fifteen (12) hours of prerequisites: ACG 2021, ACG 2071, CGS 2100, and GEY 2000.

These courses are intended to reflect educational requirements mandated by the State of Florida and specified in Chapter 21z.11 of the Florida Administrative Code.

Students in the B.S. program should understand that they will only be allowed to register for the full-time internship (GEY 4945) after successful completion of all (or all but one) of the required courses in the B.S. major. Because the B.S. internship requires full-time effort, students will be allowed to take no more than four (4) credits concurrent with the B.S. internship.

GEY 2000 at this university or its equivalent at another institution is required as a gerontology prerequisite. ACG 2021 and ACG 2071 taken at this university or elsewhere will satisfy accounting prerequisites.

Students interested in either the B.A. or the B.S. option should contact the Department as early as possible in their careers at the University of South Florida.

Requirements for the Minor in Gerontology

An undergraduate minor in Gerontology is available for students interested in pursuing careers in conjunction with any undergraduate major, but it should be particularly beneficial to persons majoring in such disciplines as anthropology, business, communication sciences and disorders, government and international affairs, nursing, psychology, health care, social work, and sociology. Requirements for the minor in Gerontology are a total of 15 hours of the following courses:

Required:

GEY 2000 Introduction to Gerontology (3)

Required: Choose 2 of the following 3 courses:

GEY 3601 Physical Changes and Aging (3)
GEY 3625 Sociocultural Aspects of Aging (3)
GEY 4612 Psychology of Aging (3)

Electives:

Six additional GEY credit hours.