

**Master of Arts in Gerontology
Graduate Certificate in Gerontology
Department of Sociology and Social Work
College of Arts and Sciences**

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The Department of Sociology and Social Work offers the following graduate programs in Gerontology:

- Master of Arts in Gerontology (Major Code: 245A/30.1101) – general emphasis
- Master of Arts in Gerontology (Major Code: 256*/30.1101) with three concentrations:
 - Counseling (256B)
 - Lifespan Transitions (256D)
 - Program Administration (256C)
- Graduate Certificate in Gerontology (110A/30.1101)

Courses in the following disciplines are offered by the Department of Sociology and Social Work:

- SOC: sociology
- SW: social work (see the Social Work program for course descriptions)

In addition, the Gerontology programs include coursework offered by other departments as follows:

- BIO: biology courses (see the Biology program for course descriptions)
- FCS: family and consumer sciences courses (see the Family and Consumer Sciences program for course descriptions)
- HCM: health care management courses (see the Management Department for course descriptions)
- HPC: human development and counseling courses (see the Community Counseling program for course descriptions)
- PS: political science courses (see the Political Science program for course descriptions)
- PSY: psychology courses (see the General Experimental Psychology program for course descriptions)
- RM: recreation management courses (see the Exercise Science program for course descriptions)

The Gerontology program, housed in the Department of Sociology and Social Work, prepares students for positions requiring graduate-level knowledge and skills in the field of aging. The program emphasizes knowledge about the psychological, sociological, and biological processes of normal aging as they affect the diverse and rapidly growing population of older adults in the state and the nation. Theory, research and professional career preparation are emphasized, as is knowledge and understanding of public policies implemented through federal and state programs.

Some courses may require prerequisites. It is the responsibility of the candidate to meet all prerequisites. The candidate's undergraduate program must have included a course in statistics and a course in research methods. Candidates who are deficient in these or any other undergraduate prerequisites must take the equivalent course(s). An advisor will supervise each candidate's program of study and will recommend to the Dean of the Graduate School any exceptions and/or substitutions when necessary.

Candidates for the Master of Arts degree must demonstrate an understanding of research procedures and show proficiency in interpreting data in various formats by completing the required course in research problems, and must either complete an additional course in research problems or write a thesis.

The Gerontology MA program qualifies for **Academic Common Market** status, and students from the southeastern states outside of North Carolina may qualify for a reduction to in-state tuition. Currently, the Gerontology program is open in the following states: Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Students should contact their home state's ACM coordinator to request consideration. The complete list of coordinators is available on the Southern Regional Education Board website: <http://www.sreb.org>.

A **Graduate Certificate** is offered both on campus as on-line, and can be completed in either one or two years. It is designed to develop or supplement aging-related knowledge and skills for (1) students in other master's degree programs; (2) employees who desire a Gerontology credential, but who do not want or need a master's degree; (3) others with a personal or professional interest in aging and elders.

Appalachian's Gerontology programs are approved by the NC Division of Facility Services to offer the assisted living facility Administrator-in-Training Program.

PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR THE GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GERONTOLOGY (CERTIFICATE CODE: 110A/30.1101).

Admission requirements: Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university; complete application to the Cratis Williams Graduate School (<http://www.graduate.appstate.edu>), including resume and official transcripts for baccalaureate degree.

Hours: 15 hours.

Location: On Campus and/or On Line.

Required Courses:

SOC	5400	Sociology of Adult Development and Aging	3
SOC	5420	Health Care and Aging	3
SOC	5551	Social Context of Services to Older Adults	3
REQUIRED HOURS			9

Electives: (chosen in consultation with an advisor)

6 hours of electives in one of five interest areas: Business Administration, Interpersonal/Group Dynamics, Health Care Management, Home and Social Economics, and Public Management.

ELECTIVE HOURS 6

TOTAL HOURS FOR THE CERTIFICATE 15

PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN GERONTOLOGY – GENERAL EMPHASIS (Major code: 245A/30.1101)

Admission Requirements: Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university; complete application to the Cratis Williams Graduate School (<http://www.graduate.appstate.edu>), including resume, three letters of recommendation, official GRE general test scores, and official transcripts from all colleges attended.

Basic Criteria for Consideration: Undergraduate GPA 2.75; GRE Verbal + GRE Quantitative = 900.

Hours: 30 semester hours with thesis; 36 without thesis **Location:** On Campus

Required Courses:

BIO	5563	Biology of Aging	3
HPC	5680	Counseling the Aging	3
PSY	5562	Psychology of Adulthood and Aging	3
SOC	5110	Research Problems I (or an equivalent course in a cooperating discipline) ...	3
SOC	5400	Sociology of Adult Development and Aging	3
SOC	5420	Health Care and Aging	3
SOC	5900	Internship	3
REQUIRED HOURS			21

Thesis Options (CHOOSE ONE):**WITH THESIS**

SOC	5999	Thesis.....	3-6
Electives	(5000 level or above)		3-6

(chosen with advice and approval of the Program Director;
see list of approved electives later in this section)

WITHOUT THESIS

SOC	5990	Research Problems II (or equivalent course in a cooperating discipline).....	3
Electives	(5000 level or above)		12

(chosen with advice and approval of the Program Director;
see the list of approved electives later in this section)

THESIS OPTION HOURS 9 (with thesis) or 15 (without)

**TOTAL HOURS FOR THE MA DEGREE 30 (with thesis)
or 36 (without thesis)**

Thesis: Optional

Proficiency: None required

Comprehensive: Each candidate must successfully complete a written comprehensive examination.

Product of Learning: None required

PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN GERONTOLOGY - WITH CONCENTRATIONS
(Major code: 256*/30.1101)

Admission Requirements: Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university; complete application to the Cratis Williams Graduate School (<http://www.graduate.appstate.edu>), including resume, three letters of recommendation, official GRE general test scores, and official transcripts from all colleges attended.

Basic Criteria for Consideration: Undergraduate GPA 2.75 or higher; GRE Verbal + GRE Quantitative = 900 or higher.

Hours: 33 semester hours with thesis; 36 without thesis

Location: On Campus

Required Courses:

BIO	5563	Biology of Aging	3
HPC	5680	Counseling the Aging	3
PSY	5562	Psychology of Adulthood and Aging	3
SOC	5110	Research Problems I (or equivalent course in a cooperating discipline).....	3
SOC	5400	Sociology of Adult Development and Aging	3
SOC	5420	Health Care and Aging	3
SOC	5900	Internship	3
REQUIRED HOURS			21

Concentrations (CHOOSE ONE):

COUNSELING CONCENTRATION (256B)

HPC	5220	Counseling Theory and Techniques	3
HPC	5790	Group Methods and Processes	3
HPC	5850	Theory and Practice of Reality Therapy.....	3

LIFESPAN TRANSITIONS CONCENTRATION (256D)

FCS	5110	Practical Issues in Family Development	3
FCS	5210	Nutrition for the Elderly	3
FCS	5315	Housing for the Elderly	3
FCS	5551	Families in Later Life	3

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION CONCENTRATION (256C)

PS	5180	Public Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation.....	3
PS	5360	Public Personnel Administration	3
PS	5665	Public Management	3

CONCENTRATION HOURS 9-12

Thesis Options (CHOOSE ONE):

WITH THESIS

SOC	5999	Thesis	3-6
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WITHOUT THESIS

SOC	5990	Research Problems II (or an equivalent course in a cooperating discipline) .3	
Electives	(5000 level or above)		0-3
(chosen with advice and approval of the Program Director – see list of approved electives on next page)			

THESIS OPTION HOURS 3-6

TOTAL HOURS FOR THE MA DEGREE 33 (with thesis)
 or 36 (without thesis)

Thesis: Optional

Proficiency: None required

Comprehensive: Each candidate must successfully complete a written comprehensive examination.

Product of Learning: None required

NOTES FOR MA Students: Courses meeting the requirements for Internship, Research Problems, Thesis, and Independent Research Study may be taken, where available, in any of the cooperating disciplines with the approval of the Program Director.

List of Approved Electives for MA Programs:

Courses currently approved for electives include, but are not limited to, the following:

FCS	5110	Practical Issues in Family Development (3 s.h.)
FCS	5210	Nutrition for the Elderly (3 s.h.)
FCS	5315	Housing for the Elderly (3 s.h.)
FCS	5551	Families in Later Life (3 s.h.)
HCM	5560	Managed Care (3 s.h.)
HPC	5220	Counseling Theory and Techniques (3 s.h.)
HPC	5790	Group Methods and Processes (3 s.h.)
HPC	5850	Theory and Practice of Reality Therapy (3 s.h.)
PA	5180	Public Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation (3 s.h.)
PA	5360	Public Personnel Administration (3 s.h.)
PA	5665	Public Management (3 s.h.)
RM	5560	Leisure and Aging (3 s.h.)
SOC	5530-5549	Selected Topics (1-4 s.h.)
SW	5555	Death, Dying, and Living (3 s.h.)

GRADUATE COURSES IN SOCIOLOGY (SOC)

SOC 5025. Advanced General Sociology/(3).F. Systematic critical analysis of the state of the sociology discipline and of major sociological principles and ideas.

SOC 5110. Research Problems I/(3).F. Survey of social research methodologies. Includes the foundations of inquiry, theory construction, and the investigation of various approaches to the study of social phenomena. Topics covered include observation, non-intrusive research, content analysis, focused and unfocused interviewing, scale and index construction, sampling and survey research designs.

SOC 5200. Contemporary Sociological Theory/(3).F. A review and assessment of the works of leading contemporary sociologists with critical analysis centering around the nature of sociological explanation.

SOC 5270. Complex Organizations/(3).On Demand. An examination of theories of large scale organizations with a substantive, comparative analysis of types of organization such as bureaucratic, prison, hospital, industrial, scientific, and voluntary organizations.

SOC 5300. Appalachia in Social Context/(3).S. Examines the social relationships among the people who inhabit the geographical region known as Appalachia. Focus upon the social history, demography, and social institutions of the region.

SOC 5350. Contemporary Social Issues/(3).F. A critical analysis of some of the major social issues in American society. Emphasis will be placed upon the theoretical and empirical implications of social attitudes toward the explanation, treatment, and public policy decisions related to these issues.

SOC 5400. Sociology of Adult Development and Aging/(3).F. A sociological approach to the study of the stages of adult life. This will include current theory and research on the processes of development and age-related changes during the adult years.

SOC 5420. Health Care and Aging/(3).S. An analysis of how aging related changes impact the range and delivery of health care programs. Issues considered include health, long-term care, elder abuse, family care giving patterns, health insurance models, and how cost, quality, and access impact health care for the elderly.

SOC 5500. Independent Study/(1-4).On Demand.

SOC 5530-5549. Selected Topics/(1-4).On Demand. An opportunity to study a special topic or combination of topics

not otherwise provided for in the sociology curriculum. May be repeated for credit when content does not duplicate.

SOC 5560. Race and Minority Relations/(3).F. Examination of intergroup relations, including racial, ethnic, and women's issues; the bases of conflict, accommodation, and assimilation; the nature and consequences of prejudice and discrimination; evaluation of proposals for reduction or elimination of prejudice and discrimination. [Dual-listed with SOC 4560.]

SOC 5570. The Addictive Process/(3).F;S. An examination of sociological and psychological contributants to alcohol and drug addiction and abuse in our society. The addictive process and its impact on the individual and society are described, as well as treatment and prevention program efforts. Students will also examine their own feelings and attitudes about alcohol and drug use and abuse. (Same as HPC 5560.) [Dual-listed with SOC 4570.]

SOC 5600. Political Sociology/(3).S.Alternate years. An analysis of the social influences on political behavior, the relationship between political and other institutions, the uses and abuses of political power. [Dual-listed with SOC 4600.]

SOC 5630. Programs and Services for Older Adults/(3).F. This course focuses on both policy and practice issues related to services for older adults. Drawing on research from both sociology and social work, the long-term impact of an aging society on social institutions as well as relevant modes of practice in addressing the needs of the older population are emphasized. (Same as SW 5630.) [Dual-listed with SOC 4630.]

SOC 5650. Women in the Justice System/(3).S. This course will explore issues related to women in the criminal justice system. It will examine the types of crime committed by women, treatment of women by police, courts, and the correctional system, women's victimization by battering, rape, and harassment, and women in non-traditional criminal justice occupations. [Dual-listed with SOC 4650.]

SOC 5710. Rural and Urban Communities/(3).S. Alternate years. Analysis of the structure and functioning of rural and urban communities; social organization and change within and among communities. [Dual-listed with SOC 4710.]

SOC 5750. Social Stratification/(3).F. A study of the distribution of wealth, power, privilege, and prestige. The course examines conservative, liberal, and radical explanations of human inequality. Cross-cultural and comparative analysis is used to focus on various problems of inequality and their consequences. [Dual-listed with SOC 4750.]

SOC 5800. Sociology of the Family/(3).S. The origin and development of the family as a social institution; the contemporary family in various cultures; the relationship of the family to the economic, political, religious, and educational institutions in American society. Prerequisite (for undergraduates): SOC 1110. [Dual-listed with SOC 4800.]

SOC 5850. Social Science Seminar/(3).On Demand. A review and evaluation of the literature of the individual social science disciplines, as well as social science in general, emphasizing contemporary contexts, philosophical underpinnings, theoretical concerns, and methodological convergence. Prerequisite: twelve semester hours of graduate work. (Same as CJ 5850/GHY 5850/HIS 5850/PS 5850.)

SOC 5900. Internship: Field Experience/(3-12).F;S. Supervised placement in a setting which provides an opportunity to observe and practice sociological skills. Graded on an S/U basis.

SOC 5950. Globalization and Population/(3).On Demand. This course examines how worldwide changes have given rise to global organizations, global inequities and some environmental degradation. Special emphasis is placed on how the population dynamics of fertility, mortality and migration underlie many global issues and create new conflicts. [Dual-listed with SOC 4850.]

SOC 5989. Graduate Research/(1-9).F;S. This course is designed to provide access to University facilities for continuing graduate research at the master's and specialist's levels. Graded on an S/U basis. SOC 5989 does not count toward a degree.

SOC 5990. Research Problems II/(3).S. For students not writing a thesis. Content focuses upon the development of a research proposal including a review of literature, derivation of a theoretical overview, and the outline of a research design. Graded on an S/U basis. Prerequisite: SOC 5110.

SOC 5999. Thesis/(1-6).F;S. Graded on an S/U basis.