

AGING STUDIES, CERTIFICATE IN (GRADUATE CERTIFICATE)

Program goal

The Department of Gerontology serves the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation by providing educational programs related to understanding and promoting optimal aging. The department encourages education through discovery of new knowledge, interdisciplinary interaction, professional behavior and service to the organizations serving older individuals. The department's primary focus is to prepare individuals for positions in the network of aging services. Gerontologists are educated to support optimal aging for older persons, families, and caregivers. The certificate program provides quality education to those already working with older adults and wish to enhance their skills with formal academic training in gerontology and individuals new to the field or with training in other professions.

The program's goal is to ensure that graduates can demonstrate the ability to apply core gerontological concepts according to the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education Core Concepts. The Certificate in Aging Studies program offers a fully online delivery format.

Student learning outcomes

1. **Connect gerontological theory to practice:** Students will demonstrate a holistic theoretical understanding of adult development and elderhood from a biological, psychological and social perspective and the ability to apply this knowledge to aging, using a strengths-based lifespan orientation.
2. **Integrate diversity, equity and inclusion in gerontological practice:** Students will demonstrate knowledge of how discrimination, oppression and marginalization based on age and intersectional identities impacts health and longevity. Students will be equipped with the knowledge to shape positive attitudes about aging and elderhood.
3. **Uphold professional and ethical standards:** Students will demonstrate the ability to engage in an ongoing self-reflective process of their professional gerontological practice. Students will demonstrate the ability to uphold professional standards through individually and collaboratively applying ethical decision-making processes.
4. **Demonstrate interdisciplinary approach:** Students will demonstrate the ability to engage in interdisciplinary dialogue and be knowledgeable of interdisciplinary approaches to promoting optimal aging.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs

The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the

Graduate School website (<http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/>) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/>)

Graduation requirements

As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements. (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/>)

Other information

The program's student handbook is available on the student Canvas site.

Apply online today. (<https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/>)

Admission requirements

Degree:	Semester(s) of entry:	Deadline dates:	Test requirements:
Certificate	All semesters		None

The Certificate in Aging Studies program is open to qualified students who have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university or the equivalent and who have met all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements/>).

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/>), students in the Certificate in Aging Studies program must complete 15 credit hours of course work.

Curriculum requirements

Course	Title	Hours
Required courses		
GRTY 601	Biological and Physiological Aging	3
GRTY/PSYC 602	Psychology of Aging	3
GRTY 603	Social Gerontology	3
GRTY 606	Aging and Human Values	3
Restricted elective		3
Total Hours		15

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this certificate is 15.

Course	Title	Hours
Electives		
GRTY 604	Problems, Issues and Trends in Gerontology	4
GRTY 615	Aging and Mental Disorders	3
GRTY 638	Long-term Care Administration	3
GRTY 691	Topical Seminar	3
GRTY 692	Independent Studies	1-3

Contact

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Program website: gerontology.chp.vcu.edu/programs/mastersprogram/
(<https://gerontology.chp.vcu.edu/programs/mastersprogram/>)