

Minor In Gerontology

Degree Requirements

If a minor is required in your degree program, at least 9 (lower and/or upper-division) hours of courses in the minor must be completed at the University.

Requirements For The Interdisciplinary Minor In Gerontology

The Interdisciplinary Minor in Gerontology requires 18 semester hours. At least 9 hours (lower and/or upper-division) hours of courses in the minor must be completed at the University. At least 9 hours of courses must be upper division. The Interdisciplinary Minor on Gerontology is designed for those Arts and Sciences majors who are interested in obtaining jobs in agencies that provide services for older individuals and their families or in pursuing graduate degrees that involve research on aging and the life course or intergenerational relationships. Majors in other colleges may also pursue the Interdisciplinary Minor in Gerontology, but should discuss this option with an advisor from the major field. Students who complete requirements for the Gerontology minor may be eligible to receive the Undergraduate Certificate in Gerontology as well, provided all requirements for the Certificate are met. Students should consult their advisor and the program director or assistant director to discuss this dual credential option. University policies regarding dual use of courses for both a major and a minor apply.

Interdisciplinary Minor in Gerontology
Core Courses For The Minor (Undergraduate)
Required:
SY 372 (3 hrs)
BLY 207, SY 435, or GRN 435 (3 hrs)
PSY 456 or PSY 250 (3 hrs)
Internship (Required)
Internship in Gerontology (GRN 496 or equivalent). With permission of the program director and the student's academic advisor, an internship in the student's primary discipline may be substituted if the internship provides significant contact with older people, their families, or appropriate service agencies. Three (3) semester hours required; up to six (6) semester hours may be accepted. Approval of the internship placement must be obtained at least 6 weeks prior to registration. The 3 hour internship requires 100 contact hours; the 6 hour internship requires 200 contact hours. If you plan to substitute an internship from another discipline, you must obtain written approval from the Gerontology Program Director prior to registration.
Elective Courses
(Select courses to bring total hours to 18) Any required course option that is not chosen from the list above to fulfill a requirement may be used as an elective, other elective choices include:
GRN 272
GRN 290
GRN 490
GRN 435
SY 472
PSY 456
PSY 416
PSY 428
PSY 475
IST 210

 IST 401

 LS 397

 LS 479

 GRN 494

 *SY 490

*May be taken as electives when the course topic is appropriate for gerontology. Please note: GRN 290 and GRN 490 are variable topic courses. Check the class schedule each term to determine which topic is being offered. Sample topics include: Gender and Aging; Leadership and Advocacy in Gerontology; Housing and Lifestyle Changes across the Life Course; and Aging and Public Policy. Other electives may be taken from the student's degree discipline with approval by the student's advisor and the Gerontology Program Director. Content of the elective must include substantial focus on aging.

Department Information

Gerontology Staff

(251) 460-6020

Program Director and Academic Advisor

Dr. Roma Stovall Hanks

Assistant Director and Academic Advisor

Dr. Hosik Min

Department of Gerontology website

<https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/artsandsci/syansw/gerontologyprogram/>

The University of South Alabama offers Certificates in Gerontology at the Graduate and Undergraduate levels and an Interdisciplinary Minor in Gerontology.

Gerontology is the interdisciplinary study of:

1. The human life cycle
2. Issues related to aging
3. Intergenerational Relationships

The Gerontology program is designed to establish an expertise that will enhance and compliment the analytical skills that the student acquires as part of the major area of study. This expertise may be used as preparation to specialize within the career area related to the student's major area of study or to pursue further academic training in graduate or medical school. Special topics courses and on-line instruction are available.

Depending on their specific needs and interests, students may be able to complete requirements for the Undergraduate or Graduate Certificate in Gerontology through distance learning options. Students who are interested in pursuing a Gerontology Certificate on-line should speak with their academic advisor and the Gerontology program director. Students in professional programs may be able to use field placements in lieu of the Gerontology Internship.

The Degree Works audit tool lists the Gerontology Certificates as programs. Students should alert their advisors to check that they are enrolled in a Gerontology Certificate program (Graduate or Undergraduate). In order to receive the printed Gerontology Certificate, the student must submit a completed Data Sheet and Application available at the program website: <https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/artsandsci/syansw/gerontologyprogram/>. The certificate is not automatically issued without an application.