

Graduate Certificate in Gerontological Social Work

The University of Missouri Graduate Certificate in Gerontological Social Work is open to MSW students from any social work program nationwide, as well as currently practicing social workers with a BSW or MSW degree. The University of Missouri School of Social Work has a long history of training gerontological social workers and conducting research in the field of aging.

Training Social Workers to Respond to a Growing Need

Gerontological social work is one of the fastest growing fields within the profession, with a 25-34% job growth in the past decade. Therefore, the demand for social workers who have specialized training in working with older adults is very high. This certificate program is designed to help train the next generation of geriatric social work practitioners. Individuals enrolled in this certificate program will build knowledge and expertise in working with older adults and their families in a variety of settings that serve the aging population. This program offers an interdisciplinary emphasis, as social workers often work on large, interdisciplinary teams on behalf of their older clients. In addition, this program also focuses on building awareness of aging policies and services, as well as advocacy of older adults.

As a result of earning this Graduate Certificate in Gerontological Social Work, students enrolled in an MSW program as well as practicing social workers who hold a BSW or MSW degree can expect enhanced employability in the field.

Graduate Certificate in Gerontological Social Work Curricula

Courses are available online, and some are available in-seat as well. If you would like to propose a substitution for one of these courses, please contact the Director with the course number, course name, and the course description. For the interdisciplinary course requirement, you may choose any aging-related MU course. Students often take human development and family science and nursing courses to satisfy this requirement. These requests will be taken into consideration and you will be notified with a decision of your request.

Please note that the semester in which courses are offered and the method of delivery (i.e. class type) can frequently change. Please consult the current degree offerings at MU to verify that a particular course will be offered when you aim to enroll. You may also contact the Director of the certificate program if you have questions about course offerings or would like to propose a substitute course be considered.

Requirements

This certificate program consists of 12 credit hours.

Required Courses (take both courses): 6

SOC_WK 7480	Direct Practice with Older Adults
SOC_WK 8240	Policy and Advocacy for Empowered Aging

Choose one elective course: 3

SOC_WK 7395	Death, Grief and Loss
SOC_WK 8210	Disability Rights Advocacy

Choose one interdisciplinary course: 3

H_D_FS 7255	Aging Policy
H_D_FS 7256	Environments and Aging
H_D_FS 7257	Aging and the Family
H_D_FS 7259	Mental Health and Aging
H_D_FS 7260	Women and Aging
H_D_FS 7261	Biological Principles of Aging
H_D_FS 8221	Gerontechnology
H_D_FS 8222	Creativity and Aging
H_D_FS 8251	Perspectives in Gerontology
H_D_FS 8253	Physical Health in Aging
H_D_FS 8254	Gerontology Research Methods and Program Evaluation
H_D_FS 8258	Professional Seminar in Gerontology

Contact Information:

For additional information about the Graduate Certificate in Gerontological Social Work, please contact Dr. Erin Robinson at robinsonel@health.missouri.edu.