

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 (total of 9 hours, including 3-hour internship):

SY 372 (3 hrs)

BLY 207, SY 435, or GRN 435 (3 hrs)

PSY 456 or PSY 250 (3 hrs)

Internship (Required 3 hours)

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 to 18 hours)

Any required course option that was not chosen from the list above to fulfill a requirement may be used as an elective. An additional 3 hours of internship may be accepted as an elective. Other elective choices include:

GRN 272

GRN 290

GRN 435

GRN 490

GRN 494

GRN 435

HS 262

HS 462

KIN 263

SY 472

PSC 481

PSY 250

PSY 416

PSY 428

PSY 456

PSY 475

IST 201

LS 397

LS 479

SY 418

SY 435

SY 472

SY 490

Please note: GRN 290 and GRN 490 are variable topic courses. Directed studies, seminars, and special topics courses may be taken for credit toward the minor or certificate in gerontology only when the course topic is appropriate for the study of aging or intergenerational relationships. 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; 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

Associate 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. Students and alumni of the program may be asked to participate in exit interviews or surveys.