

Gerontology Certificate

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Nearly everyone will work with older adults and their families at some time in their career, and society soon will be faced with the largest elderly population in history as more people age and live longer. Consider that beginning in 2006, the first of some 77 million United States baby boomers turned 60.

Members of the increasing elderly population group will bring unprecedented strength and expertise to late life, but they also will have their own set of challenges and concerns.

Central Michigan University is among the few universities in Michigan that offers a gerontology graduate certificate program to help prepare the professionals needed to respond to these concerns and assure quality of life for older people.

Gerontology Certificate at CMU

Gerontology is the holistic study of aging. The gerontology graduate certificate program at CMU addresses the need for expertise in aging and adult development. It complements numerous areas of study and is designed for graduate students and professionals seeking to better serve their aging clients.

This 18-credit interdisciplinary program is especially valuable to people interested in working in fields related to health, sociology, psychology, human services, human development, and family studies. The program offers a basic foundation in theory, research, and practice specific to late life.

Graduate Studies at CMU

The gerontology graduate certificate complements a number of graduate degree programs offered through the Central Michigan University College of Graduate Studies. Such graduate programs include:

- Audiology
- Counseling and Special Education
- Health Promotion and Program Management
- Human Development and Family Studies
- Master of Business Administration
- Physical Therapy
- Physician Assistant
- Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services Administration
- Speech-language Pathology

The CMU College of Graduate Studies currently provides master's, specialist's, and doctoral degree programs in more than 60 fields.

The college's on-campus graduate programs serve approximately 1,800 students. This includes as many as 1,000 part-time students, many of whom are working professionals who commute to evening and weekend classes.



Students enrolled in the gerontology graduate certificate program at Central Michigan University have opportunities to interact with nationally recognized experts in gerontology-related fields. A recent on-campus conference addressing the alarming dangers of HIV/AIDS among older adults featured Jane Fowler (middle), a retired journalist who was diagnosed HIV positive in 1990, and Nathan Linsk (second from right), a professor at Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Gerontology Curriculum

Students in the gerontology graduate certificate program at CMU will study the psychology, social construction, and physical conditions of aging citizens.

Required core courses

- Gerontology: Theory and Practice
- Public Policy and Aging

Students will work with the program advisor to select their remaining course work from among three groupings of courses.

Group 1: Psychological

- Psychology of Aging
- Dementia Care: Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention

Group 2: Physical Health and Administration

- Health and Physical Development in Late Life
- Drugs and the Elderly
- Legal and Regulatory Aspects of Long Term Care
- Administration Issues in Long Term Care
- Resident Care Issues in Long Term Administration
- Adult Health Education Theory and Practice
- Geriatric Nutrition
- Advanced Topics in Nutrition: Geriatrics
- Communication Disorders in the Aged
- Adult and Pediatric Swallowing and Feeding Disorders

Group 3: Family, Culture, and Society

- Special Topics
- The Family Life Cycle: The Older Adult
- Counseling Aspects of Grief and Loss

www.grad.cmich.edu

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Admission Requirements

Students interested in the gerontology graduate certificate program at CMU must either hold a completed baccalaureate degree or have been accepted into a graduate degree program at CMU.

The certificate program can be completed in three semesters, but a student-paced approach to the certificate is equally suitable.

Career Opportunities

Students who earn a gerontology graduate certificate from CMU will discover career opportunities available in a number of settings, including senior centers, retirement centers, nursing homes, agencies on aging, and community mental health agencies.

Some of these positions may require additional education.

- Activities Director
- Adult Day Care Manager
- Adult Foster Care Home Director
- Adult Therapist
- Case Manager
- Counselor
- Geriatric Clinician
- Gerontological Consultant
- Governmental Agency Administrator
- Grant Proposal Writer
- Housing Manager
- Policy Maker
- Recreational Therapist
- Researcher on Aging
- Retirement Planner
- Senior Center Director
- Social Security Consultant
- Social Services Director
- Transportation Developer



The CMU Gerontology Program offers students hands-on programs to enhance their classroom learning. CMU students, older adults, and local service providers recently learned about the benefits of a guided autobiography during a MindAlert workshop that was funded through a grant that the gerontology program received from the American Society on Aging and Met Life. Noted gerontologist James Birren led the event.

For More Information

To learn more about the gerontology graduate certificate program at Central Michigan University, contact:

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www.ehs.cmich.edu/hev/gradcertgerontology.htm



CMU, an AA/EO institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity within its community (see www.cmich.edu/aaeo).

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