

# MAJOR IN GERONTOLOGY

Towson University offers an undergraduate degree program leading either to the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree in Gerontology. The course work is multidisciplinary and provides students with an understanding of the scope of gerontology, the issues that are central to the study of aging, and a perspective from which students may understand the phenomenon of human aging and its implications for families and society. The program is designed to prepare students for entry-level professional positions in the field of aging, social services, and aging policy, as well as provide the knowledge and skills necessary for graduate and professional schools.

## Honorary Society

Sigma Phi Omega, the national honor society in gerontology, has established the Delta Rho Chapter at Towson University. The purpose of the society is to recognize excellence in the academic standing of students studying or majoring in gerontology and to provide enriched opportunities and service activities for members. The faculty adviser is Joyce Weil, 410-704-2345 / jweil@towson.edu.

## Requirements

Students pursuing a degree in Gerontology must complete a minimum of 45 units in the program as outlined below. Required elective courses must be approved by the student's Gerontology adviser.

Code	Title	Units
<b>Required Courses</b>		
GERO 101	INTRODUCTION TO GERONTOLOGY	3
GERO 350	PHYSICAL HEALTH AND AGING	3
GERO 397	GERONTOLOGY INTERNSHIP	3-6
GERO 485	GERONTOLOGY SENIOR SEMINAR	3
PSYC 405	PSYCHOLOGY OF AGING	3
SOCI 359	SOCIAL GERONTOLOGY	3
<b>Required Methods Courses</b>		
Select a Research Methods course (approved by Gerontology adviser)		3-4
Select a Social or Behavioral Statistics course (approved by Gerontology adviser)		3-4
<b>Elective Upper-Level Courses</b>		
Select four of the following:		12
GERO 367	DEATH, DYING AND BEREAVEMENT	
GERO 370	SPECIAL TOPICS	
GERO 405	CROSS CULTURAL AGING	
GERO 450	DIRECTED READINGS IN GERONTOLOGY	
HLTH 311	CHRONIC AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASE	
HCMN 417	LONG-TERM CARE ETHICAL PROBLEMS	
HCMN 419	LONG-TERM CARE ADMINISTRATION	
HLTH 331	NUTRITION FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS	
SOCI 329	DEMOGRAPHY	
Or other upper-level courses approved by Gerontology adviser		
<b>Cognate Electives</b>		
Select three of the following: <sup>1</sup>		9
ANTH 207	CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY	
ANTH 209	ANTHROPOLOGY OF AMERICAN CULTURE	

HLTH 101	WELLNESS FOR A DIVERSE SOCIETY
HLTH 204	NUTRITION AND WEIGHT CONTROL FOR THE CONSUMER
HLTH 207	HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S.
HLTH 208	MENTAL HEALTH, STRESS MANAGEMENT, AND CRISIS INTERVENTION
PSYC 203	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
SOCI 101	INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

**Total Units** **45-50**

<sup>1</sup> Additional courses may be counted as Gerontology cognate electives at the discretion of the Gerontology program director.

## Four-Year Plan of Study

### Sample Four-Year Plan

The selected course sequence below is an example of the simplest path to degree completion. Based on course schedules, student needs, and student choice, individual plans may vary. Students should consult with their adviser to make the most appropriate elective choices and to ensure that they have completed the required number of units (120) to graduate.

#### Freshman

Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
GERO 101	3 HLTH 101 <sup>1</sup>	3
PSYC 101 (Core 6)	3 PSYC 203 <sup>1</sup>	3
SOCI 101 <sup>1</sup>	3 Core 2 (or Core 1)	3
Core 1 (or Core 2)	3 Core 4	3
Core 3	3 Core 5	3
<b>15</b>		<b>15</b>

#### Sophomore

Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
HLTH 207 <sup>1</sup>	3 GERO 350	3
SOCI 359	3 Approved Statistics Course	3
Core 7	4 Core 8	4
Core 9	3 Core 10	3
Core 11	3 Core 14	3
<b>16</b>		<b>16</b>

#### Junior

Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
PSYC 405	3 GERO 485	3
Approved Methods Course	3 Upper-Level Elective	3
Upper Level Elective	3 Elective	3
Core 12	3 Elective	3
Core 13	3 Elective	3
<b>15</b>		<b>15</b>

#### Senior

Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
Upper Level Elective	3 GERO 397	3
Upper Level Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3

Elective	3 Elective	1
	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Total Units 120</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Cognate Electives

## Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the fundamental concepts of the discipline and dismiss inaccurate stereotypes associated with aging.
2. Communicate effectively with a variety of audiences, both orally and in writing.
3. Think critically. Be able to evaluate policies and social services for older adults in an aging world.
4. Demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in careers and graduate programs related to gerontology.