

GERONTOLOGY, PHD

Our program provides interdisciplinary training, preparing students to be leaders in the field of gerontology. Due to the multidisciplinary nature of the field, our students have much flexibility as we create individualized programs tailored to each student's research and substantive interests to ensure that their training has enough breadth and depth. Our graduates acquire knowledge through various approaches including symposia, formal classes, directed studies, research projects and workshops. All students develop abilities to understand, analyze and evaluate the challenges and opportunities of an aging population. Finally, through training by our multidisciplinary faculty, students strengthen their research and writing skills to produce quality research suitable for peer-reviewed publication and presentation at national conferences.

Program Related Information

Program Contact

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Program Website (<https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-public-affairs-and-community-service/gerontology/academics/phd-gerontology.php>)

Admissions

General Application Requirements and Admission Criteria (<http://catalog.unomaha.edu/graduate/admission/>)

Application Deadlines

- Fall 2026: January 15 (Priority deadline if interested in scholarship or graduate assistantship); Applications accepted through April 15

Other Requirements

- **Entrance Exam:** GRE scores are OPTIONAL for those applying to the PhD program. All applications will be reviewed whether or not GRE scores are included.
- **English Language Proficiency:** Applicants are required to have a command of oral and written English. Those who do not hold a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from the United States, **OR** a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from a predetermined country on the waiver list (<https://www.unomaha.edu/office-of-graduate-studies/admissions/entrance-exams.php>), must meet the minimum language proficiency score requirement in order to be considered for admission.
 - Internet-based TOEFL: 90, IELTS: 6.5, PTE: 64, Duolingo: 120
- **Statement of Purpose:** This should describe prior education, relevant professional experience, career goals, and the specific relationship of the PhD degree to the achievement of those goals. If there are particular faculty you are interested in working with, or areas of study that you would like to pursue please include in your statement. If you are interested in a graduate assistantship, please indicate your interest and the skills you have to assist the faculty.
- **Writing Sample:** This may be a master's or honors thesis, a published article, or any similar manuscript or paper written in a scholarly style.
- **Resume**
- **Letters of Recommendation:** Three academic letters of recommendation are required.

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
GERO 8800	GRADUATE SEMINAR IN THE AGING BRAIN ¹	3
or GERO 8056	ADVANCED BIOLOGY OF AGING	
GERO 8500	POLITICS AND AGING	3
GERO 8730	DYING, DEATH & GRIEVING	3
GERO 9110	THEORIES OF AGING	3
GERO 9460	SEMINAR IN AGING AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR	3
GERO 9020	GRADUATE SEMINAR IN STATISTICAL APPLICATIONS	3
Methodology/Statistics Courses		6
Electives		46
Dissertation		20
GERO 9990	DISSERTATION	
Total Credits		90

¹ Students may take either GERO 8800 or 8056; both courses are not required.

² Students may begin work on the dissertation after successful completion of the comprehensive examination and admission to candidacy. The dissertation topic must be approved by the student's dissertation committee, which consists of a chair and three other members. One Committee member must be a faculty member from outside the Department of Gerontology. The dissertation topic, prospectus, and the dissertation all require the approval of the dissertation committee. A doctoral student will be required to take at least one hour of GERO 9990 Dissertation each fall and spring semester while working toward the completion of the dissertation. A minimum of 20 credit hours of GERO 9990 is required for all doctoral students.

Comprehensive Examination and Admission to Candidacy

When all or most of the coursework is completed on the plan of study, you must pass a written comprehensive examination. Once these exams are passed the supervisory committee will submit the necessary Application for Candidacy form for approval by the Office of Graduate Studies.