Gerontology (Certificate)

Reasons to Choose Our Program...

- 100% online, this 15-credit graduate certificate program is designed to fit around your busy work schedule

- The graduate certificate can be completed in one year, and is also flexible if you want to spread out your coursework

- Gerontology is the study of aging with a focus on late life. Our population is aging at a rapid rate and many employers want to hire individuals with training that indicates they know how to work with, plan for, and administer programs for and with older adults

- The number of older adults requiring special services is on the rise, while service and support providers are experiencing a shortage of qualified workers to care for this population

- Professionals in the field of aging work in a variety of settings. Whether working directly with older adults or working as advocates, educators and researchers, the number of careers in this field is growing. According to the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, career opportunities exist in many different areas: Community, human service and religious organizations, Health care and long-term care institutions, Government agencies, Schools, Retirement communities, and Professional organizations

- “Best bang for the buck” Washington Monthly placed WMU on a list of national universities that offer “the best bang for the buck.” WMU came in at No. 46 based on the economic value students receive per dollar
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Teaching, Research, and Program Focus Areas

WMU’s Gerontology faculty members are seasoned researchers and practitioners who share their knowledge in ways that enhance the individual student’s learning experience. Students learn about the biological, psychological and social aspects of aging from gerontologists who are experienced in delivering and evaluating services for older adults. The certificate complements many graduate programs and can expand career choices. It enhances careers in social work, health care, financial services, government, senior living communities, community planning, human services and religious organizations.

Admissions

Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution. Applicants will apply via the graduate application online system. In addition to providing general information (including educational history details), there are also specific program requirements. For program requirements and other details, visit wmich.edu/gerontology

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. However, the application must be complete (i.e. all official transcripts and required documents received) two weeks prior to the start of any given semester/session or the application will be deferred to the following semester/session. Once a semester/session has started, all applications will be deferred to the following semester/session.

Graduate Assistantships/Associateships

Eligibility for financial assistance is determined by the Office of Student Scholarships at WMU.

Contacts

Advising
chhs-advise@wmich.edu

Center for Gerontology (269) 387-9600

Western Michigan University
One of the top-100 public universities in the United States, Western Michigan University offers many nationally known graduate programs, including 30 doctoral and 70 master’s degrees. More than 20 percent of its 24,000 students are enrolled in graduate course work.

Kalamazoo
With a population of more than 325,000, Kalamazoo is the sixth largest metropolitan area in Michigan and among the 150 largest in the country. Kalamazoo is rated one of the 25 best cities in the country for young college graduates, and is located midway between Chicago and Detroit.