




THE SCHOOL of  
**PUBLIC AFFAIRS &  
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

*Passion. Skill. Leadership.*

## JOIN THE FIELD OF GERONTOLOGY

Gerontology is the study of the physical, mental, and social changes in people as they age. A graduate degree in Gerontology uniquely enriches one's knowledge and skills to serve the diverse needs of older adults, their families and communities. Gerontology is one of the fastest growing disciplines within the areas of health and human services; it offers a multitude of exciting and dynamic career opportunities.

California has recently experienced a doubling of the population over the age of 65; the number of individuals over the age of 85 is increasing at the greatest rate. By 2030, all baby boomers will be age 65+, 1 in every 5 residents (20%) will be retirement age, and the population will be more racially and ethnically diverse.

SF State's Gerontology Program is designed to enable students to meet the growing needs of an aging population with a varied health span. We invite your participation to help us address the individual, societal and global potential of aging.

It is not how old you are,  
but how you are old.

- JULES RENARD

### Gerontology Program Advisors

Darlene Yee-Melichar, EdD  
Professor, Program Coordinator & Advisor  
dyee@sfsu.edu | 415.338.3558

Emiko Takagi, PhD  
Assistant Professor & Advisor  
etakagi@sfsu.edu | 415.338.3557

### Lecturer Faculty

Edwin Cabigao, PhD, RN  
Christopher Cherney, MA, LNHA  
Cristina Flores, PhD, RN

Gwen Harris, MA, MFT  
Patricia McGinnis, JD  
Monika Scott, MA, LMFT



## Master of Arts in Gerontology

[gerontology.sfsu.edu](http://gerontology.sfsu.edu)





## M.A. IN GERONTOLOGY

A Master of Arts in Gerontology prepares students for effectively serving the needs of diverse groups of older adults. It also lays a firm academic foundation in applied gerontology for those who choose to work toward a doctoral or professional degree. Students may choose a number of career paths in the field of aging within the public and private sectors.

The graduate program is dedicated to:

- Interdisciplinary education
- Multiple approaches to meeting the needs of the diverse aging population
- Research to expand bodies of knowledge about aging
- Effective practice relevant to aging populations
- Community applications to advocate for improving the quality of life for older individuals

SF State's Gerontology program was established in 1986 as the first gerontology program in the California State University and University of California systems. The M.A. in Gerontology is a program of the School of Public Affairs & Civic Engagement (PACE) within the College of Health & Social Sciences (CHSS).

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The program emphasizes an applied, skill-based approach to professional education, drawing upon the expertise of the faculty and the strengths of the University and community.

Our richly diverse, multicultural environment provides a natural laboratory for understanding and developing competencies around the aging experiences of different cultural groups.

Students gain knowledge of the discipline and its theoretical foundations. They are prepared with tools that allow them to use quantitative and qualitative methods in applied research for solving a variety of practical problems in the community.

## ADMISSIONS

A prospective student must fulfill the general University requirements as stated in the Graduate and Post-baccalaureate Admissions section of the SF State Bulletin. Students whose undergraduate major did not include gerontology courses should consult the graduate coordinator about prerequisite courses in Gerontology.

For consideration, students will be expected to:

- Meet the admissions standards of the University
- Have an earned undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 or higher
- Submit statement of purpose regarding your personal aspiration, career and professional goals
- Submit two letters of recommendation from faculty and/or employers
- Submit your current resume
- Demonstrate adequate writing proficiency

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The M.A. in Gerontology consists of 33 units which includes 10 required core courses and one elective course. The required internship (6 units) consists of student placement in an off-campus facility or organization. Numerous facilities and organizations collaborate with the graduate program in offering internships in applied, community and institutional settings. The required culminating experience (3 units) consists of a project course integrating bodies of knowledge from required courses. This usually translates into a two-year academic program.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

COURSE #	NAME OF COURSE	CREDITS
GRN 705	Aging in a Multidimensional Context	3
GRN 710	Aging Processes: Health and Human Services	3
GRN 715	Age and Social Policy	3
GRN 725	Aging and Diversity	3
GRN 735	Ethical and Legal Issues in Aging and Social Services	3
GRN 760	Research Methods in Gerontology	3
GRN 765	Aging and the Continuum of Care	3
GRN 838	Gerontology Seminar	3
GRN 839	Gerontology Internship	3
GRN 890	Integrative Seminar	3
Elective	Consult with GRN faculty advisor	3
<b>MINIMUM TOTAL</b>		<b>33</b>

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The program has scholarships available for students; please visit: [sfsu.academicworks](https://www.sfsu.edu/academicworks). In addition, faculty often are working on projects in which they have funds to hire teaching and research assistants.