How do gerontology, aging and geriatrics relate to each other? In broad terms, gerontology is the study of the aging process, and geriatrics is the healthcare specialty related to the diseases and conditions associated with the aging process. In practice, the two disciplines overlap and increasing emphasis is being placed by both on how to encourage people to age successfully and stay as healthy as possible over the life course.

Are there jobs available in the gerontology field? Yes. In general, increases in both the number of older adults and their longevity assure an expanding job market for graduates with training in gerontology. Specifically, graduates in gerontology are moving into positions with titles such as corporate gerontologist, aging planner, geriatric care manager, memory unit director, family caregiver specialist, in-home care supervisor, policy analyst, retirement property manager and marketing/development director. To learn more about careers in Gerontology, please see our Aging Careers page.

What kind of material is covered in this graduate program? WSU’s Gerontology Program curriculum focuses on gaining professional competencies in key areas through increased knowledge and skills. Coursework addresses biological, psychological, social, policy, fitness, and business dimensions of aging as well as research methods and statistics.

Is there an internship component? Internship opportunities are available for students in both the undergraduate and Master program. Master students are required to complete an internship or research experiences. Such experiences are developed individually among the student, site and a faculty coordinator to meet the educational needs of the students and to provide service to the site. Options can be tailored to meet the schedule demands of students who are employed.

Do I have to take the GRE? No, GREs are not required for admission into the Gerontology Master program. For more information please see the Graduate Schools Admission Requirements.

I currently work and would like to continue working while pursuing a graduate degree. Is the Gerontology Program accommodating to working students? Yes, many WSU Gerontology Program alumni have worked full-time or close to full-time while pursuing their degrees. The majority of GERO courses are taught online allowing a more flexible learning environment. Students must still adhere to weekly deadlines and requirements, however classes do not meet at any specific time. That said, it is wise to seek encouragement from your employer and to understand personally the demands that will be made on your time by coursework. Keep in mind that there are maximum lengths of time for completion of a degree depending on the program to which you are admitted.

What is the deadline for application for each semester to the Gerontology Program? Please see the Graduate Schools Application Deadlines.

How long does it take to receive an admission decision? The review of application materials may require several days or weeks depending upon the review cycle of the program area and the completeness of the application materials.

How many credit hours are required for the Gerontology Master Program? To earn a Master in Gerontology you must complete 39 hours. Please see the Master Program Description for more information.
May I start the Program in the summer? Theoretically yes, however, we offer fewer course in the summer with the majority of offerings involving internships or research experiences which have prerequisites and are not available to entering students.

Important note: These questions are posed and answered from the perspective of a general applicant. If you have specific questions you