Master of Arts in Aging Studies

The department of Public Health Sciences offers courses of study leading to the Master of Arts (MA) degree in Aging Studies. Because aging studies is concerned with gaining and applying knowledge about all aspects of aging in a wide range of professional settings, it is by nature, multidisciplinary and inter-professional. Aging studies includes the perspectives of numerous disciplines concerned with the physical, mental, and social aspects of life. Understanding the aging process is vital to understand the aging workforce, planning, marketing, and delivering of services to people who are aging, and education individuals upon whom aging will have an impact. Wichita State’s Aging Studies program is a charter member of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education.

Admission Requirements
In addition to the Graduate School admission requirements, applicants must have a grade point average in their last 60 hours of their bachelor’s degree of 2.750 (on a 4.000 scale) and must submit names of three references. Students without an undergraduate statistics course are required to take a graduate-level statistics course approved by their advisor. International applicants must have a score higher than 575 paper-based or 88 internet-based on the TOEFL examination OR an overall minimum band score of 7.0 on the IELTS examination.

Degree Requirements
The Master of Arts in Aging Studies trains professionals to meet the growing needs of America’s aging population. The program is designed for students with minimal training in aging studies from such areas as public health sciences, communicative disorders, nursing and allied health, exercise science, social work and mental health. Professionals in any field where older people make up a significant and increasing proportion of the client population, and where professionals with aging studies training are presently scarce would be well placed in this program.

Since employment in the area of aging often demands a knowledge of Aging Studies combined with knowledge and skills found in a particular discipline, students may use elective courses to pursue an emphasis in such areas as business, education, psychology, sociology, and biology.

The MA in aging studies requires completion of 36-39 credit hours. Core courses comprise 18 credit hours. Additional hours are chosen within three curricular tracks: social science, public health, and administrative. Students choose from one of three study options: thesis, internship, and coursework, to complete the program. The social studies track is offered fully online. The aging studies program provides quality distance education, enabling students to earn the MA from anywhere in the state or country.

Study options
Option 1. Thesis
Core Courses
Curricular Track Requirements
AGE 895 Thesis Research (3 cr)
AGE 899 Thesis (3 cr)
Examination: Oral Defense of Thesis

Option 2. Non-Thesis: Internship
Core Courses
Curricular Track Requirements
AGE 810 Aging Studies Practicum (6 cr)

Option 3. Non-Thesis: Coursework
Core Courses
Curricular Track Coursework to total at least 36 cr
Examination: Written Comprehensive

Core Curriculum – all tracks 18 Hrs
CSD 517  Communication in Aging  3
AGE 715  Adult Development and Aging  3
AGE 798  Interprofessional Persp. on Aging  3
AGE 804  Aging Programs and Policies  3
AGE 818  Biology of Aging  3
HP 801  Interprofessional Evidence-based Practice  3

Curricular Tracks
Social Science
Must complete AGE 813 and 814
AGE 813  Sociology of Aging  3
AGE 814  Psychology of Aging  3

PLUS
Option 1 & 2: must complete 2 (6 cr) of the following electives
Option 3: must complete 4 (12 cr) of the following electives

AGE 512  Issues in Minority Aging
AGE 515  Women and Aging
(continued)
(Social Science electives, continued)
AGE 516  Age, Work, and Retirement
AGE 520  Family & Aging
AGE 560  Aging Network Seminar
AGE 663  Economic Insecurity
AGE 780  Physical Dimensions of Aging
AGE 825  Death and Dying
AGE 827  Sexuality and Aging

Public Health*
Options 1 & 2: must complete these five (15 cr) courses
Option 3: must complete these five (15 cr) courses plus
1 elective (3 cr)

PHS 804 Principles of Statistics in Health Sci 3
PHS 808 Principles of Epidemiology 3
PHS 812 Health Care Policy and Admin 3
PHS 814 Social & Behavioral Aspects of Public Health 3
PHS 816 Environmental Health 3

* Requires completion of 39 hours for the Thesis and Internship options – this track also earns the Public Health Graduate Certificate

Administration:
Option 1 & 2: must complete four (12 cr) of the following courses
Option 3: must complete four (12 cr) of the following courses and 2 electives (6 cr)

PHS 812 Health Care Policy and Admin 3
HMCD 621 Supervisory Management in Health Care Organization 3
HMCD 622 Human Resources Management in Health Care Organizations 3
HMCD 642 Financing Health Care Services 3
HMCD 648 Concepts of Quality 3
HMCD 660 Administrator-in-Training (AIT) Long-Term Care Practicum** 3

**The Administrator-in-Training (AIT) is a long-term care nursing home practicum placement program. The AIT is designed to place qualified applicants in a 9 credit hour, 480 clock hour practicum with a qualified nursing home administrator, as part of the preparation necessary for becoming a licensed nursing home administrator in the state of Kansas. Candidates for initial Kansas licensure as an adult care home administrator must successfully complete a long-term care administration practicum. This includes 3 hours of HMCD 660 (Administrator-in-Training (AIT) Long-Term Care Practicum) and 6 hours of AGE 810(Aging Studies Practicum). Students interested in the AIT program should notify their adviser of their intent to pursue this certification. Pre-requisites for HMCD 660 include a course in finance or accounting and management or leadership. Additional information on the AIT is available through the PHS department.

Students will be expected to meet with their faculty adviser and create their Plan of Study following the completion of 12 graduate credit hours, as discussed in the Graduate School chapter of the Graduate Catalog. The plan of study must include a minimum of 60 percent of the student's graduate hours at the 700-899 level.

Graduate Emphasis in Aging Studies
A 12-15 hours concentration in Aging Studies may be taken as part of a graduate degree program in another department. Students who wish to pursue the Aging Studies emphasis must fulfill the requirements in both departments.

Financial Opportunities
The program annually awards one graduate teaching assistantship or research assistantship. Assistantships provide a stipend and, for non-Kansas residents, a possible waiver of non-resident tuition rates. A student awarded a graduate teaching assistantship may qualify for up to 100 percent waiver of their tuition.

Faculty
Due to the interdisciplinary nature of aging studies research, the Aging Studies faculty is composed of individuals with full graduate faculty status from across disciplines who have a research interest in Aging Studies. Faculty members represent programs in sociology, psychology, criminal justice, administration, counseling, school psychology, nursing, public health, marketing, aging studies, social work, ethnic studies, public administration, and communication sciences and disorders.

For More Information
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