Gerontology Program

Gerontology Graduate Programs

Graduate study in gerontology at KU consists of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in gerontology, along with the option for a dual-title Ph.D. in Gerontology and selected social science disciplines.

They are administered through the Gerontology Center, a component of the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies.

The Doctor of Philosophy degree in gerontology was approved by the Kansas Board of Regents during the 1996-97 academic year. KU is one of only several universities nationwide offering the Ph.D. in gerontology. KU’s gerontology graduate program is unique in that it is an interdisciplinary research degree emphasizing social and behavioral gerontology.

Faculty affiliated with the program include members of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, including the School of the Arts; and the Schools of Architecture, Design and Planning; Education; Engineering; Health Professions; Law; Medicine; Music; Nursing; Pharmacy; and Social Welfare.

The graduate program in gerontology gives students a broad, advanced educational experience in gerontology. It provides a common focus for all students, yet allows each student to design a course of study most appropriate for her or his career objectives. Courses give students a multidisciplinary perspective on the issues and problems of aging, built on a strong foundation in basic research on aging. The program prepares students for academic and research careers in gerontology, as well as for professional careers in private and public institutions and agencies providing services to older individuals.

Students seeking a terminal M.A. in gerontology are not admitted; the M.A. is offered only to those pursuing a Ph.D.