

What Can I Do With a Major in...

# Behavioral and Social Gerontology?

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The Behavioral and Social Gerontology major consists of a liberal arts curriculum with a core study of gerontology courses. There is a demand for specialists within elderly care, and GMC is preparing students to fill this niche in the social/mental health field. Gerontology addresses the intellectual, social and emotional needs of older people. Studies include: biology of aging, death and dying, theories of counseling, social psychology of aging, ethical issues, and therapeutic activities. Graduates are employed in research, higher education, retirement communities, community health education, therapy, recreational therapy and case management.

### Skills/Competencies Associated with Gerontology Majors:

- \* Enjoys working with and researching the elderly.
- \* Desire to help people and make a difference in making a better life for others
  - \* Sensitivity, empathy, patience
  - \* Perseverance
  - \* Good communication skills
  - \* Integrity
- \* Ability to make sound judgments and decisions

### Related Occupations:

Agency Director  
Aging/Gerontology Specialist  
Assistant Director of Agency  
Behavior Specialist  
Case Worker  
Child Welfare Worker  
Clinical Social Worker  
Consultant  
Deputy Director  
Developmental Disabilities  
Economists  
Educator  
Employee Assistance Counselor  
Employment/Occupational Social Worker  
Faith-based Agency Worker  
Family Services Social Worker  
Group Home Director  
Group Worker  
Health Care Specialist  
Health Care Worker  
Historian  
Hospital Social Worker  
Intake Counselor

International Social Worker  
Market Research Analyst  
Marriage Counselor  
Medical Social Counselor  
Mental Health Worker  
Mobile Therapist  
Peace Corps/VISTA Volunteer  
Policy & Planning Specialist  
Policy Advocate  
Policy Analyst  
Probation Officer  
Program Manager  
Psychiatric Social Worker  
Research Analyst  
Residential Counselor  
School Counselor  
School Social Worker  
Substance Abuse Counselor  
Supervisor  
Statisticians  
Technical Writer  
Therapeutic Staff Service Worker  
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

\*This is only a partial list and not meant to limit you. Come to Career Services to explore your options further.

### Strategies:

- \*Volunteer for social service organization
- \*Fundraise for social agency or causes.
- \*Obtain an internship.
- \*Strengthen computer and communication skills.
- \*Read journals on the elderly.
- \*Volunteer for charitable organizations.

### Resources for Gerontology Majors:

College Central Network  
[www.collegecentral.com/gmc](http://www.collegecentral.com/gmc)

American Anthropological Association  
[www.aaanet.org](http://www.aaanet.org)

Society for American Archaeology  
[www.saa.org](http://www.saa.org)

Social Work JobBank  
<http://www.socialworkjobbank.com>

The New Social Worker Magazine  
<http://www.socialworker.com>

National Association of Social Workers  
<http://www.socialworkers.org>

Occupational Outlook Handbook  
[www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco)

Archaeological Institute of America  
[www.archaeological.org](http://www.archaeological.org)

Association of American Geographers  
[www.aag.org](http://www.aag.org)

Non Profit Times  
[www.nptimes.com](http://www.nptimes.com)

Idealist  
[www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org)

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**Gwynedd-Mercy College**  
**Career Services**  
215-646-7300, ext: 230  
[careerservices@gmc.edu](mailto:careerservices@gmc.edu)  
[www.gmc.edu/students/careerservices](http://www.gmc.edu/students/careerservices)