

What can I do with this major?

Gerontology

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
- Integrity and perseverance
- Ability to make sound judgments and decisions
- Sensitivity, empathy, patience
- Good communication skills
- Desire to help people and make a difference in making a better life for others

Related Occupations:

Agency Director	Market Research Analyst
Assistant Director of Agency	Marriage Counselor
Behavior Specialist	Mental Health Worker
Case Worker	Mobile Therapist
Clinical Social Worker	Peace Corps/VISTA Volunteer/Mercy Corps.
Developmental Disabilities (Dementia)	Program Manager
Educator, higher education	Psychiatric Social Worker
Employment/Occupational Social Worker	Research Analyst
Faith-based Agency Worker	Residential Counselor
Family Services Social Worker	School Counselor
Group Home Director	School Social Worker
Health Care Specialist	Substance Abuse Counselor
Health Care Worker	Technical Writer
Hospital Social Worker	Therapeutic Staff Service Worker
Intake Counselor	Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

* Some of these careers may involve acquiring additional education.

*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:

College Central Network

www.collegecentral.com/gmc

Gerontological Society of America

www.geron.org

National Academy on an Aging Society

www.agingociety.org

Geriatric Social Work Initiative

www.gswi.org

International Association of Gerontology

www.iagg.info

Alliance for Aging Research

www.agingresearch.org

National Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging

www.n4a.org

Social Work JobBank

www.socialworkjobbank.com

The New Social Worker Magazine

www.socialworker.com

National Association of Social Workers

www.socialworkers.org

Occupational Outlook Handbook

www.bls.gov/oco

O*Net

<http://online.onetcenter.org>

InfolinkPA

www.infolinkpa.org

Association for Gerontology in Higher Edu.

www.aghe.org

Administration on Aging

www.aoa.gov

American Assoc. of Homes & Services for Aging

www.aahsa.org

National Council on Aging

www.ncoa.org

Non Profit Times

www.nptimes.com

Idealist

www.idealists.org

Gwynedd-Mercy College

Career Services

215-646-7300, ext: 230

careerservices@gmc.edu

www.gmc.edu/careerservices