

Curriculum for Students Admitted FS2012 & After (4/7/14 revision)

Gerontology Graduate Program, School of Social Work, University of Missouri – St. Louis

Tom Meuser, PhD, Director (314-516-5421; meusert@umsl.edu)
Debra Garcia, Office Supervisor (516-5280; garciaray@umsl.edu)

ADVISING GUIDE & COURSE ROTATION PLAN (↔ choose one for requirement)

FALL Semester (Core for MSG & GCG*)
POLICY (3 credits for MSG & Grad Cert)
Health Care Policy (6443) ← ↔
HEALTH (3 credits for MSG & Grad Cert)
Aging & Health Behavior (6441) ← ↔
SOCIOCULTURAL (3 credits for MSG & Cert)
Advanced Social Gerontology (5361 / 4367) ↔
CLINICAL & PSYCHOSOCIAL (6 credits)
Gerontological Assessment (6450)
** The 18-hour Graduate Certificate in Gerontology (GCG) utilizes courses from the Fall-Spring Core and one practicum (6495).*

SPRING Semester (Core for MSG & GCG)
POLICY
Seminar in Public Policy & Aging (6444)
HEALTH
Adv Seminar in Medical Gerontology (6498)
SOCIOCULTURAL
Cultural Aspects of Aging (5440 / 3215)
CLINICAL & PSYCHOSOCIAL
Interviewing Older Adults & Life Review (6130)
Theory and Practice with Older Adults (6120)
Psychopathology & Aging (5376 / 4376)

Fall Semester (Elective)
Issues in Retirement (6449)
Directed Study (6490 / 4490)
9 credits of electives are required for the MSG Track 1; no electives are allowed for the Graduate Certificate which utilizes core courses only. Any core course may also serve as an elective for MSG Track 1. Additional electives may be offered in a given term at the discretion of the Program Director.

Spring Semester (Elective)
Intro to Gerontological Practice (4680)
Dying, Grief & Death in Older Adults (5620)

Summer Semester (Electives)
Successful Aging (100% On-Line; 4700)
Gender & Aging (5320)
Interdisciplinary Geriatric Care (6497; Linked with SLU Summer Geriatric Institute)

PRACTICUM (6 credits for MSG)
Practicum in Gerontology (6495)
Advanced Practicum in Gerontology (6496)
Practicum in Gerontological Research (6500)
Each practicum is 200 hours. 6495 is required for the Graduate Certificate and the MSG. MSG students may choose 6496 or 6500, depending on career goals. Most on the Service & Care Track take 6496. Some on the Program Administration Track may choose 6500. All practicum assignments require a special consent number and are made at the discretion of the Program Director. A special advising meeting is required 2-3 months out.

RESEARCH (6 credits for MSG)*
Gerontology Research Methods & Analysis I & II (GER 5420 & 5450) – *MOST STUDENTS*
Options at discretion of Program Director:
Social Work Research Methods & Analysis I & II (SW 5410/5450)
Introduction to Policy Research (PPA 6010) & Intro to Eval Res Methods (PPA 6750)
Program Evaluation (SW 6400; Must be taken in same semester as 6496)
Directed Research in Aaina (6510)

Programmatic Track 1 (Default Track for Students upon Admission):

- **Service & Care** – This plan of study is outlined in the boxes above. Track 1 is intended for students wishing to develop competencies as a generalist gerontologist for the purpose of working with older adults in various service and clinical care settings (long-term care, community-based care, hospice, etc.).



Required Credit Hours:
MSG = 36
GCG = 18

Gerontology Graduate Program
133 Bellerive Hall, 1 University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121
<http://www.umsl.edu/~socialwk/Gerontology/index.html>
Prospective students and those in need of academic advising should contact Dr. Meuser by e-mail to set up an individual appointment.
All new MSG students are admitted in Track 1 (see below). Those wishing to pursue Track 2 must declare this intention to the Program Director by the beginning of their second enrolled semester.

Program Learning Objectives
Students will gain:

- A detailed appreciation for the aging process with respect to successful aging, health status, physical functioning, cognition and capacity, psychosocial involvement, diversity, cultural influences and competence, and public policy.
- An ability to integrate theoretical perspectives on aging with the practical needs and concerns of individuals in various living environments.
- An ability to interpret and appropriately utilize research findings to inform daily practice, especially with respect to screening, assessment, intervention, and referral activities.
- Professional competence in the areas of ethical practice, participation in multidisciplinary teams, communication with clients and families, assessment and intervention.

Certificate in Nonprofit Management & Leadership (NPML)
The NPML Certificate is combined with the MSG in Track 2. Students wishing to be considered for Track 2 must meet with Dr. Meuser no later than the start of their second enrolled semester. If appropriate, the student will be asked to make application to the NPML Program and interview with the Program Director, Dr. Deborah Balser. Track 2 students receive advising from both Drs. Meuser and Balser to develop a combined plan of study within the 36 credit hour footprint of the MSG. In some instances, 1-2 additional courses may be necessary.
Students admitted to Track 2 must devote all 9 credits of MSG electives towards NPML coursework (PPA 6300, 6310, 6311, 6312, 6313, 6501) and one practicum (usually GER 6496) must comply with NPML Internship requirements (nonprofit management setting, 300 hours). Track 2 students may also choose to fulfill the 6-credit research requirement for the MSG by taking courses through Public Policy Administration (PPA 6010 & 6750).

Programmatic Track 2 (Optional, Secondary Application Required):

- **Program Administration** – Track 2 is optional and intended for students wishing to pursue a career in aging services administration (e.g., nonprofit administration with a focus on aging, long-term care administration, program coordination). A separate application and interview process is required, usually made during the student's first and no later than second enrolled semester. Track 2 graduates receive two credentials: MSG and Certificate in NPML.

Advising Guide for MSW Students Pursuing the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology

Prepared by

Tom Meuser, PhD, Program Director (meusert@umsl.edu; 314-516-5421)

Admission to the MSW Program qualifies a student to also be admitted to the Gerontology Graduate Program to pursue a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology. This is a separate, wall-hanging credential (referred to by the acronym "GCG") which prepares the student for a career as a "Gerontological Social Worker."

The 18-credit hour GCG may be completed within the footprint of the 60 credit hour MSW degree plan of study, so it is like earning two degrees for the price of one!

To become part of the GCG Program, the student must send an email to Dr. Meuser declaring his or her intent to pursue the certificate. Dr. Meuser will invite the student in for an advising session during which time the certificate requirements will be discussed and classes mapped out. Future advising is through the primary SW advisor, unless there is a question or problem. The SW Practicum is counted towards the certificate, so long as the placement is primarily aging-focused (60%+).

Most students who pursue the GCG also choose to be part of the Gerontology Concentration in Social Work, but this is not required. It is possible to have another concentration and also earn the GCG, but it may require taking an additional 3-9 credit hours.

The Advising Guide (over) is designed to cover both the Master of Science in Gerontology (MSG) and the GCG options. The GCG involves taking 15 hours from the Core Curriculum in Fall and Spring terms (upper left boxes). The Gerontology Program does not offer core courses in the summer. When it comes time to graduate, you will submit an M1 and G10 for your certificate.

The MSW+GCG student must take one of the two policy classes, one of the two health-related classes, one of the two sociocultural classes, and two of the four clinical & psychosocial classes as shown below:

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HEALTH (3 credits for MSG & Grad Cert)	HEALTH
Aging & Health Behavior (6441)	⇒ Adv Seminar in Medical Gerontology (6498)
SOCIOCULTURAL (3 credits for MSG & Cert)	SOCIOCULTURAL
Advanced Social Gerontology (5361 / 4361) ⇔	Cultural Aspects of Aging (5440 / 3215)
CLINICAL & PSYCHOSOCIAL (6 credits)	CLINICAL & PSYCHOSOCIAL
Gerontological Assessment (6450)	Interviewing Older Adults & Life Review (6130)
* The 18-hour Graduate Certificate in Gerontology (GCG) utilizes courses from the Fall-Spring Core and one practicum (6495).	Theory and Practice with Older Adults (6120)
	Psychopathology & Aging (5376 / 4376)

Students who are part of the Gerontology Concentration in Social Work must take Health Care Policy (6443), Gerontological Assessment (6450), and Theory & Practice with Older Adults (6120). These are required courses of the Concentration. Students in other concentrations are not bound by these requirements.

The baby boom generation is changing the demographics of the US. The growing older adult population will require expansion of existing social services, as well as the development of new services and products. This is an exciting time to enter the field of Gerontological Social Work. If you enjoy working with older adults, whether in the community or across the continuum of long-term care, then the GCG may be a degree for you!

If you are interested in pursuing your GCG or simply want to discuss your options, feel free to contact Dr. Meuser at any time.

January, 2014