

Gerontology Program

School of Social Work, UMSL Tom Meuser, PhD, Director
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Affiliated Faculty Policy Statement

Issues of advancing aging, whether expressed on individual and/or group levels, have meaning for most academic disciplines on the campus of the University of Missouri - St. Louis (UMSL). The aging of the "Baby Boom" generation, for example, will have implications for professionals in the social and bench sciences (e.g., in terms of service utilization, medical science), as well as those involved in health care, business, economics, policy making, etc. Few issues in our society are as universal.

The Gerontology Program, from its base in the School of Social Work, emphasizes multidisciplinary research, education and service activities that transcend unit boundaries. An important objective of the Gerontology Program is to encourage and support collaborative activities with (and between) aging-interested faculty from anywhere in the UMSL community. Such activities include collaborative research projects, joint educational efforts, efforts to increase awareness about certain issues of aging on our two campuses, etc.

To this end, the Gerontology Program welcomes full and part-time faculty with teaching and/or research interests in aging to become "affiliated" faculty of the Program. Affiliation brings a number of benefits and opportunities, and few, if any, costs. An example affiliation listing may look something like this:

John C. Doe, PhD Assistant
Professor of Sociology Affiliated
Faculty in Gerontology University
of Missouri - St. Louis

Benefits of Affiliation

- Public/professional recognition of your status as an affiliated faculty member on the Gerontology Program website.
- An opportunity to list this affiliation on your CV and/or biosketch, thus showing your interest in this field and collaborative intent within UMSL and beyond (i.e., potentially helpful thing when applying for aging-related grants).
- An opportunity to apply for funding support from the Gerontology Program so you may present your aging-focused research findings at an out-of-area conference.¹
- Regular opportunities to meet with and share perspectives with other aging-interested faculty in the UMSL Community.

¹ The Gerontology Program will provide up to \$250 of travel funds (once per academic year) to affiliated faculty accepted to present aging-focused research findings at established regional/national/international professional conferences. To receive this support, the affiliated faculty member must establish that additional monies will be obtained through his/her home Unit and/or from other funding sources. Application should be made by e-mail to the Director of Gerontology. Each application is considered and approved on a case-by-case basis and subject to availability of funds.

- A community of colleagues from which to develop collaborative relationships to enrich your own research, teaching, and service efforts.
- An opportunity to utilize other members of the UMSL Gerontology Community to review your articles and grants before submission, or serve as interviewers when your home Unit is seeking to hire someone with an aging interest.
- Free participation in professional education programs sponsored by the Gerontology Program (e.g., Gerontology Colloquium Series).
- Invitations to participate in meetings and/or meal functions with visiting faculty that work in aging.

Responsibilities of Affiliated Faculty

- Attend and otherwise participate in scheduled Gerontology Program Faculty Meetings (1-2 per semester, typically late afternoon on a Thursday).
- Participate in at least one special gerontology education and service activities (e.g., Gerontology Colloquium, Memory Walk) each year.
- Promote Gerontology education within the UMSL community and beyond by incorporating aging-related themes in your teaching, and by notifying students and other faculty about opportunities to get involved.
- Collaborate formally (or informally) with others in the UMSL Gerontology community to develop grant-funded projects, to co-develop/teach aging-related courses, to develop aging-related course offerings for the winter intersession or during the summer, etc. These are only a few ideas. Collaboration can take many forms.

Terms of Affiliation

Any part or full-time faculty member (tenure or non-tenure track) of UMSL may request to become an *Affiliated Faculty Member in Gerontology*. Requests should be sent in writing to the Director of Gerontology, preferably by e-mail. The request should include some discussion of aging-related interests and a copy of the faculty member's CV or biosketch.

The Director of Gerontology is responsible for all decisions concerning affiliation in consultation with other Gerontology faculty. The standard term of affiliation is 3 years, and this may be renewed indefinitely. Affiliated faculty may withdraw their affiliation without penalty at any time. The Director of Gerontology reserves the right to rescind an affiliation for faculty members that (1) violate any university-endorsed code of conduct or (2) fail to live up to the basic expectations of affiliation as outlined above. In the case of #2, the Director of Gerontology will notify the faculty member in question ahead of a final decision and discuss what may be best for the individual and the Program as a whole.

Send questions or inquiries to: Tom Meuser, PhD, Director of Gerontology; School of Social Work; 134D Bellerive Hall; One University Blvd; St. Louis, MO 63121; meusert@umsl.edu; 314-516-5421.