

WHAT CAN A MINOR OR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GERONTOLOGY ADD TO YOUR COMMUNICATION STUDIES DEGREE?

UNC Charlotte offers an Undergraduate Minor and Graduate Certificate in Gerontology (with an [Early Entry](#) option)

WHAT IS GERONTOLOGY?

Gerontology is the study of longevity. Students of gerontology study not only physiological changes that occur with aging, but also social roles, normative expectations, attitudes and beliefs, stereotypes, and policy, health and economic issues which define the aging experience.

HOW DOES GERONTOLOGY COMPLEMENT MY COMMUNICATION STUDIES DEGREE?

Communication in health and aging contexts is a growing specialty in the field of Communication Studies. Communication and information regarding aging issues—with friends, family, providers, and via media and marketing messages—is pervasive and affects all of us, either as patients/consumers, family members, or message providers. It is important to look at the communication-related health and social issues facing people as we transition through middle life, older age, and end of life; and to understand the aging process as it is shaped by several social, cultural, and interpersonal factors. A minor in Gerontology will give Health Communication students insight into how meaning is constructed in life experiences throughout the life course and will enable students to shape their major in a career in this specific context.

WHAT UNC CHARLOTTE FACULTY SPECIALIZE IN THIS AREA AND WHAT ARE THEIR RESEARCH INTERESTS?

Christine S. Davis, Ph.D., christine.s.davis@uncc.edu

Family/interpersonal/patient-provider communication in aging, disability, terminal illness contexts

Erin Basinger, Ph. D., ebasinge@uncc.edu

Health communication, interpersonal/family communication, stress and coping

Margaret Quinlan, Ph.D., mquinla1@uncc.edu

Social justice issues affecting marginalized populations, intersectional feminism, practitioner-patient communication

WHAT ARE SOME CAREER RESOURCES BEYOND UNC Charlotte?

AARP

www.aarp.org

Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education Careers in Aging

www.careersinaging.com/careersinaging/

The Gerontological Society of America Careers in Gerontology

www.geron.org/StudentOrg/careers.htm

Southern Gerontological Society

<http://www.wfu.edu/gerontology/sgs/>

UNC Institute on Aging

<http://www.aging.unc.edu/>

Harwood, Jake. (2007). *Understanding Communication and Aging*. L.A.: Sage Publications.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
about the UNC Charlotte Gerontology Program Contact:
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at chancock@uncc.edu**

**Or Visit the Gerontology Program website:
www.gerontology.uncc.edu**