

## **WHAT CAN A MINOR OR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GERONTOLOGY ADD TO YOUR POLITICAL SCIENCE OR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 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 POLITICAL SCIENCE OR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION DEGREE?**

There are many good reasons to supplement a B.A. in Political Science and Public Administration with a Minor in Gerontology, or to supplement an MPA with a Certificate in Gerontology. One consideration is that age relates to political participation and thus to political influence. Another consideration is that age is a criterion of eligibility for major public programs in the United States, particularly Social Security and Medicare. Students who supplement a degree in political science or public administration with study in gerontology will have an advantage in understanding the individual-level factors that can influence, and condition, the relationship between age and political participation. They will also be able to critically analyze the design and administration of public policies that address income, health insurance, long-term care, housing, and the built environment as relevant to an aging population. Political Science and Public Administration students who complete a Minor or Certificate in Gerontology will acquire a strong foundation for future academic or applied work related to public policy and aging.

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

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American politics with emphases on health policy, aging policy, antipoverty policy, and immigration policy.

**WHAT ARE SOME CAREER RESOURCES BEYOND UNC Charlotte?**

AARP

[www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)

American Political Science Association

<https://www.apsanet.org/>

Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education Careers in Aging

[www.careersinaging.com/careersinaging/](http://www.careersinaging.com/careersinaging/)

The Gerontological Society of America Careers in Gerontology

[www.geron.org/StudentOrg/careers.htm](http://www.geron.org/StudentOrg/careers.htm)

Southern Gerontological Society

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

UNC Institute on Aging

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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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**Or Visit the Gerontology Program website:  
[www.gerontology.uncc.edu](http://www.gerontology.uncc.edu)**