

## **WHAT CAN A MINOR OR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GERONTOLOGY ADD TO YOUR PSYCHOLOGY 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 PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE?**

As the proportion of older adults continues to increase, clinical and counseling psychologists are continually treating an increasing number of older clients. This increase has brought about an increase in the proportion of research psychologists studying aging and memory, aging and personality, aging and social relationships, aging and work, aging and health, aging and law, aging and every area of Psychology. Whatever concentration you choose in Psychology, knowledge about Gerontology will play an important role and put you a step ahead of competitors.

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

*Maria-Carla Chiarella, [chiarella@uncc.edu](mailto:chiarella@uncc.edu) .*

Positive aging, specifically identifying effective coping skills related to adjustment to mid-life transitions, enhancement of long-term relationships, and management of grief and bereavement.

*Mark Faust, Ph.D., [mefaust@uncc.edu](mailto:mefaust@uncc.edu).*

Neurocognition and Dementia.

*Amy Peterman, Ph.D., [ahpeterm@uncc.edu](mailto:ahpeterm@uncc.edu).*

End of Life Issues, Spiritual Well-Being.

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

AARP

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

American Psychological Association Division on Adult Development and Aging

<http://apadiv20.phhp.ufl.edu>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
about the UNC Charlotte Gerontology Program Contact:  
Dr. Cynthia Hancock, Director  
at [chancock@uncc.edu](mailto:chancock@uncc.edu)**

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

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