

## WHAT CAN GERONTOLOGY ADD TO YOUR ELEMENTARY EDUCATION DEGREE?

*UNC Charlotte offers an Undergraduate Minor, a Concentration in Gerontology with the Interdisciplinary BA, 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 ELEMENTARY EDUCATION DEGREE?

By the year 2030, we expect one out of five persons in American Society to be an older adult (aged 65 or older), and the American family is becoming more and more diverse. Today's younger generation may live in a family that includes both grandparents and great-grandparents, may have more than two sets of grandparents, and will bear witness to the opportunities and challenges that multi-generational families may bring to themselves, their parents, and the older generations. In 2005, the American Association of Retired Persons estimated that almost 2.5 million older adults had primary responsibility for a grandchild who lived with them. While close bonds can be created between these grandparents and their grandchildren, these caregivers often face financial, health, social, and psychological stresses. Additionally, older adults represent a wonderful resource within our communities, with 43% serving as volunteers. Therefore, an educator who has formal training in aging and an awareness of the issues that impact older adults will have a greater understanding of the experiences, challenges, and opportunities that an aging society offers to both families and the school system. This understanding is critical to our ability to respond to the needs of our younger generation, as well as the families and communities who may care for them.

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

AARP

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

Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) Careers in Aging

<https://www.geron.org/academy-for-gerontology-in-higher-education-aghe>

Exploring Careers in Aging

<https://exploringcareersinaging.com/>

The Gerontological Society of America Careers in Gerontology

<https://agework.geron.org/>

Southern Gerontological Society

<https://southerngerontologicalsociety.org/>

UNC Institute on Aging

<https://www.med.unc.edu/aging/>

University of Texas Health Science Center

<https://nihsepa.org/project/positively-aging-maximizing-the-healthspan/>

Stanford University Curriculum in Ethnogeriatrics

<https://geriatrics.stanford.edu/>

Scan the QR code to go  
to the UNC Charlotte  
Gerontology Linktree



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**about the UNC Charlotte Gerontology Program Contact:**

Dr. Cynthia Hancock, Director

at [chancock@charlotte.edu](mailto:chancock@charlotte.edu)

**Or Visit the Gerontology Program website:**

[gerontology.charlotte.edu](http://gerontology.charlotte.edu)