

WHAT CAN GERONTOLOGY ADD TO YOUR COUNSELING 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 COUNSELING DEGREE?

The counseling specialization known as gerontological counseling will respond to the needs of the growing group of older adults. Therapeutic outcomes in mental health counseling have been shown to be effective with older adults and these outcomes are equal to those achieved with younger adults. There are specific challenges in working with older adults who are a very diverse population. These presenting issues may occur anytime, but they are more common in the older population chronic illness, disability, death of loved ones, and prolonged caregiving for family members who have severe cognitive or physical impairment. Effective gerontological counselors have expertise in aging issues, are informed about community resources that are available and are aware that the accumulated knowledge of people & relationships which older adults have amassed can be an asset.

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

Rumbidzai Mushunje, PhD. rmushunj@charlotte.edu. Ways to integrate geriatrics into the counseling field, including training for students.

Edward A. Wierzalis, Ph.D., eawierza@charlotte.edu.
Sexual and intimacy issues for aging gay men, Counseling the older adult.

WHAT ARE SOME CAREER RESOURCES BEYOND UNC Charlotte?

Association for Adult Development and Aging.

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

Exploring Careers in Aging

<https://exploringcareersinaging.com/>

The Gerontology Society of America Careers in Gerontology

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

Southern Gerontological Society

<https://southerngerontologicalsociety.org/>

The American Counseling Association

<http://www.counseling.org/>

Association for Adult Development and Aging

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

American Society on Aging

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

LeadingAge

<https://leadingage.org/>

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



**FOR MORE INFORMATION
about the UNC Charlotte Gerontology Program Contact:**

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Or Visit the Gerontology Program website:

gerontology.charlotte.edu