

WHAT CAN GERONTOLOGY ADD TO YOUR ARCHITECTURE 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 ARCHITECTURE DEGREE?

As people age, their needs within the built environment change, making it essential for architects to understand the physical, cognitive, and social aspects of aging. Gerontology provides insight into how older adults experience mobility limitations, sensory changes, and the desire for independence, while architecture applies this knowledge to create safe, accessible, and supportive spaces. At UNC Charlotte, this interdisciplinary connection highlights how design can improve quality of life for older adults. Concepts such as universal design, aging-in-place, and accessible housing ensure that environments remain functional across the lifespan. By integrating gerontology with architecture, students learn to design spaces that not only meet structural and aesthetic goals but also promote health, inclusion, and dignity for a growing aging population.

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

Nadia M. Anderson, nader35@charlotte.edu

Injustices presented in the built environment that require changes for equitable development in urban infrastructure.

José Gámez, Ph.D., jlgamez@charlotte.edu

Public space and community-based design connects to how different populations experience cities.

Kyoung Hee Kim, Ph.D., kkim33@charlotte.edu

Studies healthier built environments through high-performance buildings, sustainability, and building systems.

WHAT ARE SOME CAREER RESOURCES BEYOND UNC Charlotte?

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Livable Communities

<https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/>

Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture

<https://anfarch.org/>

Smart Livable Homes

<https://livablehomes.org/#designed-for-life>

American Institute for Architects Design for Aging Knowledge Community

<https://communityhub.aia.org/home>

American Aging Association

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

The Gerontological Society of America

<https://geron.org/>

Exploring Careers in Aging

<https://exploringcareersinaging.com/>

Southern Gerontological Society

<https://southerngerontologicalsociety.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:

Dr. Cynthia Hancock, Director
chancock@charlotte.edu

Or Visit the Gerontology Program website:

[Gerontology.charlotte.edu](https://gerontology.charlotte.edu)