

WHAT CAN GERONTOLOGY ADD TO YOUR BIOLOGY 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 BIOLOGY DEGREE?

Gerontology and biology go hand-in-hand. Biology focuses on the scientific foundations of life, including human physiology, cellular processes, and disease, while gerontology examines how these processes change with age in real-world contexts. At UNC Charlotte, gerontology highlights that aging is influenced not only by biology but also by psychological, social, and cultural factors. Biology explains age-related changes like chronic disease and physical decline, while gerontology provides insight into caregiving, healthcare access, and quality of life. Together, they create a more complete understanding of aging and prepare students to apply scientific knowledge beyond the lab in healthcare, research, and aging-related services for a growing older population.

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

Kristen Funk, Ph.D. kfunk@charlotte.edu

Neuroinflammation of neuroinfectious and neurodegenerative diseases

Aneesha Dasgupta, Ph.D. adasgup2@charlotte.edu

Novel mechanisms of cancer-associated muscle wasting and studying tumor-host crosstalk.

Patricija van Oosten-Hawle, Ph.D., pvanoost@charlotte.edu

Organismal stress signaling and proteostasis networks in aging & disease using genomics, proteomics and the power of the metazoan *C. elegans*.

WHAT ARE SOME CAREER RESOURCES BEYOND UNC Charlotte?

American Aging Association

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

American Federation for Aging Research

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

The Gerontological Society of America

<https://geron.org/>

Exploring Careers in Aging

<https://exploringcareersinaging.com/>

Southern Gerontological Society

<https://southerngerontologicalsociety.org/>

UNC Institute on Aging

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

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