

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS) in Gerontology

Gerontology is an Interdisciplinary discipline that encompasses the biological, psychological, and social aspects of aging. The Gerontology program is designed to provide students with an opportunity to gain foundational, contextual, and interactional competencies in Gerontology that will support their future goals of engaging in professional careers in aging that would ultimately enhance an aging society.

The BIS in Gerontology will provide undergraduate students an opportunity to gain knowledge of aging across the life course through a diverse perspective. Gerontology-related courses are designed to draw on a variety of disciplines to expose students to the issues, knowledge, and research about aging processes, older people, and the complex needs of our rapidly aging society. The overarching objective is to offer a major that will provide students with a gerontological knowledge base and skills that will prepare them for career opportunities in the field of aging (e.g., entry-level professional jobs in direct services to older persons in nutrition programs, senior centers, volunteer programs, nursing homes, and residential and assisted living facilities) and/or admission to graduate and professional degree programs (e.g., such as gerontology, medicine, nursing, psychology, public administration, sociology, and social work) in which they plan to pursue a specialization in gerontology. Students interested in pursuing the BIS in Gerontology major can select either the Behavioral and Social Sciences or Health and Health Services Allied Field.

Faculty members from business to law, the social and biological sciences, and the health and human service professions are associated with the Gerontology Institute. They bring a diverse, interdisciplinary perspective to the institute's instructional programs and are engaged in a wide range of research in the areas such as long-term care, assisted living, ethnicity and aging, health and health disparities, learning and memory, retirement, aging among minorities, inter-generational caregiving, and marketing to seniors.

For more information visit gerontology.gsu.edu

B.I.S. with a Concentration in Gerontology

Program Admission

The admission process for the BIS degree is outlined in section 3030 of the Georgia State University Undergraduate Catalog. The BIS in Gerontology will follow the same admission process with no variation.

Students interested in pursuing a BIS in Gerontology must apply for admission. Application materials can be obtained from the University's Office of Academic Assistance located in 418 Langdale Hall (telephone: 404-413-5000). Applicants must have a Georgia State University cumulative GPA of 2.0. Students should apply to the BIS in Gerontology program by the time they have earned 42 credit hours to avoid a delay in graduation. Gerontology Faculty in the Gerontology Institute are available to advise for the BIS in Gerontology degree.

Program Degree Requirements

Please refer to the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies section 3030 of this catalog for academic regulations for this program.

In addition, Per Georgia State University's requirements, all undergraduate students must satisfy a common core curriculum. The requirements can be found in the current university Undergraduate Catalog (see sections 3030 and 1400).

Area F: Courses appropriate to the major (18)

1. Required Courses (3-6)
 - GERO 2000 Introduction to Gerontology (3)
 - PSYC 1101 Introduction to General Psychology (3) (if not taken in Area E)
2. World language at the 1002 or higher level (3)
3. Select additional courses as necessary from the following to complete 18 hours in Area F:
 - AAS 1140 Introduction to African and African American History and Culture (3)
 - AAS 2010 Introduction to African-American Studies (3)
 - ANTH 1102 Introduction to Anthropology (3)
 - ANTH 2010 Introduction to Biological Anthropology (3)
 - ANTH 2020 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (3)
 - BIOL 1103K Introductory Biology I (4)
 - BIOL 1104K Introductory Biology II (4) (Prerequisite BIOL 1103k or BIOL 1107K)
 - BIOL 2110K Human Anatomy and Physiology I (4)
 - BIOL 2120K Human Anatomy and Physiology II (4)
 - BIOL 2107K Principles of Biology I (4) (Prerequisite CHEM 1211K)
 - BIOL 2108K Principles of Biology II (4) (Prerequisite BIOL 2107K or BIOL 2800 and CHEM 1211K)

- BIOL 2240 Introduction to Human Physiology (3) (Prerequisite BIOL 1104K, BIOL 1108K, or BIOL 2108K)
- BIOL 2300 Microbiology and Public Health (3)
- BIOL 2310 Microbiology and Public Health Lab (2) (Prerequisite BIOL 2300)
- CHEM 1151K Survey of Chemistry I (4)
- CHEM 1152K Survey of Chemistry II (4) (Prerequisite CHEM 1151K)
- ECON 2100 The Global Economy (3)
- ECON 2105 Principles of Macroeconomics (3) (Prerequisite MATH 1101 or MATH 1111)
- ECON 2106 Principles of Microeconomics (3) (Prerequisite MATH 1101 or MATH 1111)
- EPY 2050 Human Growth and Development (3)
- KH 2130 Introduction to the Allied Fields of Health, Physical Education and Fitness (3)
- KH 2220 Anatomy in Kinesiology and Health (3)
- KH 2230 Physiology in Kinesiology and Health (3)
- MATH 1070 Elementary Statistics (3)
- MATH 1101 Introduction to Mathematical Modeling (3)
- MATH 1111 College Algebra (3)
- MATH 1113 Precalculus (3)
- MATH 1220 Survey of Calculus (3)
- NURS 2010 Health and Human Development Across the Lifespan (3)
- POLS 2101 Introduction to Political Science (3)
- POLS 2401 Global Issues (3)
- PSYC 1100 Introduction to Biological Psychology (3)
- PSYC 2040 Introduction to Applied Psychology (3)
- PSYC 2050 Introduction to Drugs and Behavior (3)
- PSYC 2103 Introduction to Human Development: Individual and Family Issues (3)
- PHYS 1111K Introductory Physics I (4) (Prerequisites MATH 1112 or MATH 1113)
- PHYS 1112 K Introductory Physics II (4) (Prerequisites PHYS 1111K or PHYS 2211K)
- SNHP 2010 Medical Terminology for Healthcare (3)
- SOCI 1101 Introductory to Sociology (3)
- SOCI 1160 Introduction to Social Problems (3)
- SPCH 1010 Voice and Articulation (3)
- SPCH 1500 Public Speaking (3)
- SW 2000 Introduction to Social Work (3)
- WGSS 2010 Introduction to Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies (3)

Area G: Area of Concentration – Gerontology (27-29)

*NOTE: No more than 12 of the required hours (3-4 courses) in an area of concentration can be taken within any single discipline as designated by its departmental prefix (e.g., SOCI or GERO). Many courses are cross-listed with one or more disciplines. Therefore, in a situation where students have already selected or taken 12 hours of SOCI classes, and wanted to take an additional course that is cross listed with SOCI and GERO, students would have to register for the GERO course in order to meet this requirement.

NOTE: Students are strongly encouraged to take the statistics and methods courses in sequence. Specifically, a course in section 1 below should be taken prior to the course selected in section 2 below. Several courses in section 2 have a prerequisite from section 1, and in this case sequencing is not optional. Students may not take courses in section 1 and 2 below during the same term.

1. Select One Course (3-4)
 - PSYC 3510 Introduction to Research Design and Data Analysis (4) (Prerequisite MATH 1070, MATH 1101, MATH 1111, MATH 1113 or MATH 1220)
 - SOCI 3010 Social Statistics (3) (Prerequisite MATH 1070, MATH 1101, MATH 1111, MATH 1113 or MATH 1220)
 - SW 3500 Methods of Social Work Research (3) (Prerequisite MATH 1070)

2. Select One Course (3-4)
 - AAS 3980 Research Methods in African Americans Studies (CTW) (3) (Prerequisite AAS 2010)
 - PSYC 3530 Advanced Research Design and Analysis (CTW) (4) (Prerequisite PSYC 3510)
 - SOCI 3020 Social Research Methods (CTW) (3) (Prerequisite SOCI 3010)

3. Required Courses (21)
 - SOCI 3124 Diversity and Aging (3) ****Also GERO 3124****
 - SOCI 4110 Aging Policy and Services (3) ****Also GERO 4110****
 - GERO 4116 Aging and Society (3) ****Also SOCI 4116****
 - SNHP 4200 Health and the Older Adult (3) ****Also GERO 4200****
 - PSYC 4610 Psychology of Aging (3) (Prerequisite PSYC 1101) ****Also GERO 4610****
 - GERO 4910 Gerontology Internship (3) (Research or Applied)
 - GERO 4995 Independent Study (CTW) - Gerontology Senior Seminar (3)

Area H: Allied Field – Behavioral and Social Science (15)

NOTE: No more than 6 hours (2 courses) in an allied field can be taken with any single discipline as designated by its departmental prefix (e.g., SOCI or GERO). Many courses are cross-listed with one or more disciplines. Therefore, in a situation where students have already selected or taken 6 hours of SOCI classes and wanted to take an additional course that is cross listed with SOCI and GERO, students would have to register for the GERO course in order to meet this requirement.

1. **Select Five Courses (15)**
 - POLS 3110 State Government (3)
 - POLS 3145 Introduction to American Law (3)
 - POLS 3170 American Legislative Process (3)
 - PSYC 3140 Abnormal Psychology (3) (Prerequisite PSYC 1101)

- PSYC 3520 Introduction to African American Psychology (3) (Prerequisite PSYC 1101) ****Also AAS 3050****
- PSYC 4020 Social Psychology (3) (Prerequisite PSYC 1101, PSYC 3510)
- PSYC 4030 Cross Cultural Psychology (3) (Prerequisite PSYC 1101, PSYC 3510)
- PSYC 4040 Developmental Psych (3) (Prerequisite PSYC 1101)
- PSYC 4100 Cognitive Psychology (3) (Prerequisite PSYC 1101, PSYC 3510, PSYC 3530)
- PSYC 4120 Learning Psychology (3) (Prerequisite PSYC 1101, PSYC 3510, PSYC 3530)
- PSYC 4160 Theories of Personality (3) (Prerequisite PSYC 1101)
- PSYCH 4510 Community Psychology (3) (Prerequisite PSYC 1101)
- RELS 3060 Religion and Science (3)
- RELS 3255 Religion in American Life (3)
- SOCI 3030 Sociological Theory (3) (SOCI 1101 Prerequisite)
- SOCI 3040 Cognition and Society (3)
- SOCI 3101 Families and Society (3) ****Also WGSS 3120****
- SOCI 3110 Identity, Self, and Social Interaction (3)
- SOCI 3156 Sexuality and Society (3)
- SOCI 3162 African American Family (3) ****Also AAS 3000****
- SOCI 3212 Race and Ethnic Relations (3)
- SOCI 3232 Poverty and Welfare (3)
- SOCI 3340 Population Problems (3)
- SOCI 4230 Sociology of Health and Illness (3)
- SOCI 4310 Issue in the African-American Community (3) ****Also AAS 4000****
- SOCI 4366 Law and Society (3)
- SPCH 3000 Phonetics (3) (Prerequisite SPCH 1010 or SPCH 1500)
- SPCH 4410 Communication Disorders (3) (Prerequisite SPCH 3000)
- SPCH 4560 Health Communication (3)
- SW 3000 Cultural Diversity (3)
- SW 4320 Social Work Administration (3)
- SW 4330 Contemporary Health Challenges (3)

Or

Area H: Allied Field – Health and Health Services (15)

NOTE: No more than 6 hours (2-3 courses) of the requirements in an allied field can be taken within any single discipline.

1. Select Five Courses (15)

- ECON 4210 Health Economics (3) (Prerequisite ECON 2106)
- ECON 4350 Economics of Poverty and Public Policy (3)
- HA 3950 Health Economics and Financing (3)
- HA 445 Legal Concepts in Healthcare (3)
- KH 3360 Disability, Sport, and Physical Activity (3)
- KH 3600 Biomechanics (3) (Prerequisite KH 2220 and MATH 1111 or MATH 1112 or MATH 1113)
- KH 3610 Motor Learning and Development (3)
- KH 3650 Physiology of Exercise (3) (CTW) (Prerequisite KH 2230)

- NURS 3200 Introduction to Clinical Nutrition (2) (Prerequisite BIOL 2110, BIOL 2120, and consent of instructor)
- NUTR 3105 Normal Nutrition through the Life Cycle (3) (Prerequisite NUTR 2100 or consent of the instructor)
- NUTR 4955 Nutrition and Food Policy (3) (Prerequisite NUTR 3000 or NURS 3600 or consent of the instructor)
- PH 3000 Introduction to Public Health (3)
- PH 3001 Introduction to Epidemiology (3)
- PT 3660 Complementary and Alternative Therapies (3)
- RT 4096 End of Life Issues (1)
- SNHP 3000 Communication and Cultural Diversity (3)
- SNHP 3100 Electronic Health Records (3)
- SNHP 3010 Advanced Medical Terminology (3) (Prerequisite SNHP 2010)
- SNHP 4010 Leadership and Ethics in Healthcare (3)
- SNHP 4110 Future Trends-Telemedicine, Telehealth (3)
- SPCH 4560 Health Communication (3)
- SW 4320 Social Work Administration (3)
- SW 4330 Contemporary Health Challenges (3)

NOTE: Courses selected within Area H: Allied Field – Health and Health Services may require authorization from the instructor prior to registration.

Area J: Electives

Students take elective courses beyond those specified in Areas A-H to reach the 120 hours needed to earn a bachelor's degree (including 39 hours at the 3000-4000 level taken at Georgia State University). The following courses are recommended as elective options for students pursuing the BIS with a concentration in Gerontology if additional hours are needed to reach 120 hours.

- GERO 4119 Global Aging and Families (3)
- GERO 4122 Death, Dying and Loss (3)
- GERO 4130 Family, Intimacy, and Aging (3)
- GERO 4475 Communication and Aging (3)
- GERO 4700 Special Topics in Gerontology (3)
- GERO 4910 Directed Study in Gerontology (3)
- SW 4260 Aging Practice, Policy and Research(3)
- Any course listed in Area H not taken to meet Area H requirements