Master of Science in Gerontology

Mary Winners
MS Gero 2012
President, About Senior Solutions

College of Business and Public Management

2012-2013 Academic Year

University of La Verne

Again
One of America’s
Best Colleges
U.S. News & World Report
and Forbes Magazine 2011-2012
“The MS Gero program made me better in representing my clients—it makes me better at what I do.”

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MARY WINNERS, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT of About Senior Solutions, an organization working with long term, care management, and planned senior and adult family care, chose the La Verne M.S. in Gerontology program to increase her expertise. Mary said she gained an “exposure to serious research . . . my work with experienced professors was beneficial to me. La Verne stays on the cutting edge of information.”

Mary’s knowledge helped her get into “the Los Angeles Superior Court system, serving as an expert witness.” Applying her intensive research and writing skills has also helped Mary to enhance her client report methodology, “which has greatly helped our organization.” Mary sums up the La Verne M.S. Gerontology program quite succinctly: “The MS Gero program has made me better in representing my clients—it makes me better at what I do.”

Watch Mary’s Video

Meeting the Needs of our Aging Society

Older adults are the fastest growing population segment in society. In 2030, when the Baby Boomers retire, there will be a projected 70 million adults over the age of 65.

A Challenge for the 21st Century

If you are looking for a career in a rapidly growing field needing people with a broad range of skills that will improve other’s lives—an exciting, challenging, and rewarding field, I invite you to consider a career in Gerontology.

“Our aging society is generating career opportunities for prepared professionals who understand the aging process, have special skills in working with older adults, and who can manage organizations that provide services for older adults and/or their caregivers. “ La Verne’s Graduate Programs in Gerontology will prepare you for a satisfying career in Gerontology.

—Kathy Duncan, Ed.D., Interim Chair, Graduate Programs in Gerontology

What do Gerontologists do?

Gerontologists directly serve older adults providing mental, social and physical health services to the elderly and their families, and coordinate services with other agencies and institutions. They may also work in an administrative capacity, designing and executing programs, as well as staff and budget management. Finally, gerontologists may formulate and advocate public policies dealing with aging or evaluate programs and increase public awareness of the needs and services for older adults.

How do I Prepare for a Career in Gerontology?

Professional opportunities for a career in Gerontology are increasingly linked to formal education. La Verne’s Graduate Programs in Gerontology provide a rich environment where students may earn either a graduate degree or certificate in Gerontology that will provide the knowledge and skills necessary to enhance and secure their future in this rapidly growing field. In our program, students complete graduate courses to earn either a:

- Master of Science in Gerontology (MSG)
- Certificate in Gerontology
- Certificate in Geriatric Care Management

At La Verne, we maximize your potential for success with high-quality, challenging courses taught by an outstanding academic and practitioner faculty. You will be applying current theory and practice while interacting with other working adults in small evening and Saturday classes.
Where do Gerontologists work?

Health Facilities
Gerontologists can be found working with older adults in hospitals; health maintenance organizations; long-term care facilities; home health agencies; hospices; Alzheimer and rehabilitation centers.

Mental Facilities
Those with expertise in assisting the elderly are needed in community mental health centers; Veterans Administration and state hospitals; homebound programs, and skilled nursing facilities.

Social Services
Gerontologists support family service agencies; the Department of Social Support Services; and geriatric centers in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Community Agencies
Those with experience and education in gerontology work in senior centers; retirement communities; adult day care/day health; and assisted living centers.

Government Agencies
Federal and state legislative bodies; Area Agencies on Aging; the Social Security Administration, and Health and Human Services agencies consult with gerontologists on policy matters.

Advocacy Organizations
Federal and state level advocacy groups rely on the expertise of gerontologists; as does the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), caregiver groups, and eldercare.

Private Practice
Gerontologists also work in private practice as social workers; marriage and family therapists; case managers; psychologists or consultants.

Mission
The mission of the University of La Verne’s Graduate Programs in Gerontology is to prepare individuals to assume a leadership role in providing services and designing programs and policies that improve the quality of life of older adults and their caregivers.

Program Description
We have a 15-year history offering an innovative, multidisciplinary approach designed specifically for professionals in human and social services; health services management; mental health; public administration; and gerontology administration in the public or private sectors.

The curriculum is designed for students who would like to earn a Master of Science in Gerontology (MSG) degree, a Certificate in Gerontology or a Certificate in Geriatric Care Management. If a student chooses to earn a Certificate, all of the courses completed in the Certificate Program may be transferred for credit toward the MS Gerontology degree.

Our Master of Science in Gerontology
The Master of Science in Gerontology curriculum integrates theory with real-world application. Students in the MS Gerontology program have the opportunity to complete a concentration in an area that is most relevant for their career goals and interests.

The MSG Program consists of twelve courses, for a total of 36 semester hours. Each course is offered on a ten-week term basis. The program is comprised of:

- Core Courses (12 semester hours)
- Concentration Courses (12 semester hours)
- Other Courses: Elective, Internship, Research and Culminating Course (12 semester hours)

Features of La Verne’s Gerontology Program

- Four dynamic concentrations available
- Multidisciplinary academic and practitioner faculty
- Internship and research opportunities
- Ability to transfer certificate courses for credit towards the M.S. Gerontology degree
- Small evening and Saturday classes geared to working adults
- Year-round schedule allowing students to begin several times during the year
- Many Gerontology Program courses are approved for continuing education hours (CEU)
Master of Science in Gerontology

I. Core Courses (12 semester hours)
All students complete the following 3 semester hour courses:

GERO 500
Psychology of Aging
Explores the main theories and developmental tasks of adulthood and older life with emphasis on the changes in perceptual, intellectual, cognitive, and personality characteristics in the adult years.

GERO 501
Professional Issues in Gerontology
Reviews the state of professional gerontology, particularly theory and research in gerontology, ethical issues, public policy, and legal issues affecting older adults, elder abuse, and careers in gerontology.

GERO 502
Social and Cultural Aspects of Aging
Examines the social, cultural, spiritual, and gender influences on aging among different minorities and ethnic groups in the context of social structures, institutions, and interventions.

GERO 503
Physiology of Aging
Reviews the normal physiological changes of aging across various body systems and the ability of the aging body to adapt to normal and abnormal processes.

II. Concentration Electives (12 semester hours)
Students choose from one of the following concentrations:

- Gerontology Administration
- Health Services Administration
- Counseling
- Public Administration

III. Elective (3 semester hours)
Students may choose an elective from the courses in any M.S. Gerontology concentration or from among these GERO electives:

GERO 570 Grant Writing
GERO 571 Cognitively Impaired Adults
GERO 572 Death, Dying and Bereavement
GERO 573 Legal and End-of-Life Issues in Aging
GERO 574 Aging and Mental Health
GERO 575 Careers in Gerontology
GERO 576 Caregiving and Caregivers Resources
GERO 577 Spirituality and Aging
GERO 578 Aging and Biography
GERO 579 Selected Topics in Gerontology
GERO 590 Independent Study

IV. Internship (3 semester hours)
Students work with an organization that provides services or administers programs for older adults.

V. Research and Culminating Courses (6 semester hours)
The culminating research and course integrates critical thinking needed to become scholarly practitioners.

GERO 595 Research Methods in Gerontology
GERO 596 Graduate Seminar
MS Gerontology Concentrations

Gerontology Administration Concentration
Designed to provide individuals with in-depth knowledge and skills needed to work with older adults and/or develop or administer programs for older adults or their caregivers. These positions may be in government, community-based agencies, and public or non-profit organizations.

- GER 504: Long-Term Care Administration
- GER 505: Fitness and Nutrition in Later Life
- GER 506: Housing Alternatives for Older Adults
- GER 507: Organization and Management of Older Adult Services
- GER 508: Economics of Aging
- GER 509: Geriatric Case Management
- GER 510: Marketing Services for Older Adults
- GER 511: Social Policy, Health and Aging
- GER 512: Managing Senior Services
- GER 513: Legal, Ethical, and Financial Issues in Aging
- GER 590: Selected Topics in Gerontology

Health Services Management Concentration
Designed for professionals, managers and other healthcare providers in long term care facilities, senior living facilities, home health agencies, and hospices to develop the knowledge and skills for effective management of HSOs serving older adults.

- HSM 500: Managing and Leading in HSOs
- HSM 501: Recent Trends & Issues in Health Services
- HSM 502: Financial and Cost Analysis
- HSM 503: Healthcare Economics
- HSM 583: Marketing & Business Development

Concentration Elective (3 semester hours from the following)
- GER 590: Selected Topics in Gerontology
- HSM 504: Organizational Communication
- HSM 520: Strategic and Management Planning in HSOs
- HSM 540: Legal Issues in HSOs
- HSM 580: Economics of Managed Care
  or any GER Elective

Health Services Management Concentration

Counseling Concentration
Designed for professionals who are direct providers of clinical services, case managers, counselors, and administrators in mental health and human services agencies who work with older adults.

- PSY 507: Human Development
- PSY 523: Multicultural Counseling
- PSY 527: Professionalism, Ethics & Law in Counseling
- GER 590: Selected Topics in Gerontology

Concentration Elective (3 semester hours from the following)
- PSY 522: Group Counseling
- SOC 482: Family Violence & Abuse
- PSY 590: Selected Topics in Counseling
- GER 599: Independent Study or any GER Elective

Public Administration Concentration
Designed for professionals and managers employed by government and community-based agencies and public and non-profit corporations who desire to develop management and leadership skills and knowledge in gerontology and provision of services for older adults.

- PADM 530: Human Resource Management in Public Organizations
- PADM 531: Organizational Theory
- PADM 533: Policy Formation and Analysis
- PADM 555: Ethics & Leadership in Public Management

Concentration Elective (3 semester hours from the following)
- PADM 501: Intro. to Public Administration
- PADM 583: Managing Collaborative Networks
- GER 590: Selected Topics in Gerontology
- GER 599: Independent Study or any GER Elective
Graduate Certificates

The Graduate Program in Gerontology offers two innovative Certificates designed for professionals with a bachelor’s degree who want to specialize in gerontology for their professional growth, or pursue a career in gerontology or geriatric care management.

Certificate in Gerontology
Students earn a graduate certificate in gerontology by completing 18 semester hours of course work:

Core Courses (12 semester hours)
Students complete the following core courses:
GERO 500 Psychology of Aging
GERO 501 Professional Issues in Gerontology
GERO 502 Social and Cultural Aspects of Aging
GERO 503 Physiology of Aging

Concentration Electives (6 semester hours)
Select 2 courses from any of the four MS Gerontology concentrations in consultation with the program chair or academic advisor.

Certificate in Geriatric Care Management
Geriatric care management, an emerging and growing field, is a logical career opportunity for many existing and prospective students. The Certificate in Geriatric Care Management is a multi-disciplinary graduate certificate that provides students the knowledge and skills necessary to work as a geriatric care manager, either privately or within a large organization.

What is Geriatric Care Management?
In recent years, the field of geriatric care management has emerged to assess, plan, implement, and coordinate the care of older adults residing in the community and facilitate the delivery of health care and other services in the most appropriate setting. Geriatric Care Managers usually have extensive knowledge about the cost, quality, and availability of services in their community. Some of the services they perform are:

- Review financial, legal, or medical issues and offer referrals to geriatric specialists to avoid future problems and conserve assets;
- Provide crisis intervention;
- Offer counseling and support; and
- Provide conservatorship or guardianship assistance.

The Certificate in Geriatric Care Management consists of 6 courses (18 semester hours). Students will select 5 courses from among the 7 core courses. All students will be required to complete the Practicum. During the Practicum, students will work one-on-one with an experienced geriatric care manager.

Core Courses (15 semester hours)
GERO 503 Physiology of Aging
GERO 505 Fitness and Nutrition in Later Life
GERO 506 Housing Alternatives for Older Adults
GERO 507 Organization and Management of Older Adults Services
GERO 509 Geriatric Care Management
GERO 513 Legal, Ethical, and Financial Issues in Aging
GERO 514 Geriatric Assessment

Required Courses (3 semester hours)
GERO 592 Practicum in Geriatric Care Management

Courses completed for a Certificate in Gerontology or a Certificate in Geriatric Care Management may be transferred to the M.S. Gerontology program with the approval of the program chair.

Continuing Education Hours (CEUs)
Courses in many gerontology graduate programs are approved for continuing education hours for Registered Nurses and Licensed Vocational Nurses.
Applying to the Graduate Program in Gerontology

At La Verne, we accept applications and admit graduate students year round. Applicants may enroll in up to six semester hours as non-matriculated students. To be eligible for acceptance into the program, an applicant must have:

- A bachelor’s degree from a regionally-accredited institution with a minimum grade point average (G.P.A.) of 2.5 for the last 60 units of study.
- A written statement of goals and objectives for obtaining the MS Gerontology, Certificate in Gerontology or Certificate in Geriatric Care Management.
- Two recommendations from the applicant’s academic and/or professional network and a resume.
- A completed application.
- Other documents as required by the Program.

Prerequisite: Students must have successfully completed one statistics course prior to GERO 595. (HSM 594 meets this requirement).

International students must submit a TOEFL score of at least 550 and specified financial documents.

Useful information for international students is located at laverne.edu/students/international-study-abroad-services/.

University Policies, Fees, And Services

Transfer Credit

Up to 12 semester hours of graduate-level credit may be transferred from other universities into the M.S. Gerontology program; a maximum of 6 semester hours may be transferred into the Certificate in Gerontology program from other universities. Courses must be from regionally-accredited colleges or universities and directly related to La Verne’s Graduate Programs in Gerontology. Transfer courses must be no more than five years old with a grade of B or above.

Second La Verne Master’s Degree

Students who have completed a master’s degree at La Verne and wish to earn a second degree at the University may transfer up to 21 La Verne graduate semester hours from the first degree to meet the requirements for the second degree with approval from the program chair. A new “culminating activity” must be part of the second degree program. Similarly, students may transfer up to 9 La Verne graduate semester hours to earn a Certificate in Gerontology or Certificate in Geriatric Care Management with approval from the program chair.

Tuition, Fees, and Student Loans

La Verne offers a pay plan to allow students to pay tuition in installments. Students may also pay in full at the time of registration. The university accepts most major credit cards and company reimbursement plans.

Financial aid is available in the form of student loans. Applicants are advised to contact the Financial Aid Department promptly for help with the financial aid process, as it takes several weeks before money can be disbursed. The Financial Aid staff may be reached at (800) 649-0160 or laverne.edu/financial-aid.
Accreditation and Memberships

The University of La Verne is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The University, its departments, and/or faculty maintain memberships in many organizations such as:

**Gerontology**
American Society on Aging, Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, Gerontological Society of America, National Council on Aging

**Counseling**
American Psychological Association, Western Psychological Association, California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists

**Health Services Management**
American College of Healthcare Executives, Women in Health Administration, AcademyHealth

**Business and/or Public Administration**
Academy of Management, American Council on Education, American Management Association, American Society of Public Administration, American Society of Training and Development

La Verne is a national, comprehensive university offering excellence in higher education since 1891.