APPLICATION MATERIALS
In addition to the University's application materials, candidates for the Special Major are required to submit the following materials to both the PPA Department and the Gerontology Program:

- Copies of the Graduate Special Major Application available from Graduate Studies;
- Three letters of recommendation;
- General Subject GRE scores;
- Copies of transcripts for all previous college level work;
- A current resume.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Gerontology Program
California State University, Sacramento
Sacramento, CA 95819-6096
916-278-7163
www.csus.edu/gero

Department of Public Policy and Administration
California State University, Sacramento
Sacramento, CA 95819-6081
916-278-6557
www.csus.edu/ppa

Office of Graduate Studies
California State University, Sacramento
Sacramento, CA 95819-6112
916-278-6470
www.csus.edu/gradstudies

Financial Aid Office
California State University, Sacramento
Sacramento, CA 95819-6004
916-278-6554
www.csus.edu/aid
BACKGROUND
Students often approach Gerontology and Public Policy and Administration faculty about developing special master's programs that include elements from both disciplines. Some of them are interested in advocating for public policies that serve elderly Americans. Others want to work in capacities that require both a knowledge of gerontology and an understanding of the policy and administrative arenas.

We believe that the University is well served by permitting special master's degree programs that combine courses from both disciplines. At the same time, we have a mutual interest in ensuring that such special programs are coherent and rigorous. Such an interest is reflected in the present set of guidelines.

The guidelines outlined in this brochure are in addition to the general standards for special master's programs developed by the University's Office of Graduate Studies. Students should obtain and consult Graduate Studies' standards.

REQUIRED COURSES
Special Major program students must complete the following courses:

- GERO 101, Elder Care Continuum Services and Strategies
- GERO 102, Social Policy for an Aging Society

**Note:** The Director of the Gerontology Program may waive the above requirements and authorize substitution of other courses if a student has already completed similar coursework.

- GERO 200, Adaptation to Age Related Changes
- GERO 221, Models for Successful Longevity
- GERO 222, Managing Disorders in Elders
- GERO 295, Internship/Project
- PPA 200, Introduction to Public Policy and Administration
- PPA 205, Research in Public Policy and Administration
- PPA 210, Political Environment of Policy Making, or PPA 240A, Public Management
- PPA 220A, Applied Economic Analysis 1, or PPA 230, Public Budgeting and Finance
- ID 500, Thesis Seminar

Except as specified above, any modifications to these requirements must be approved by the directors of both programs and will only be permitted under unusual circumstances.

PREREQUISITES
Before a master's degree using Gerontology and PPA coursework can be approved, students must meet the following prerequisites:

- Complete introductory level college courses in the following subjects with grades of B or better:
  1) Statistics and/or research methods;
  2) Introduction to American government; and
  3) Microeconomics.

SPONSOR AND COMMITTEE
All Special Major students in this area must choose as their faculty sponsor either the director of the Gerontology Program or the chair of the Department of Public Policy and Administration. The remaining two faculty committee members must come from these two disciplines, and every committee must include representation from both disciplines. Students must also obtain approval from the Office of Graduate Studies.

PROGRAM TITLE
This master's degree is a Special Major. Each student may select up to four words to describe the emphasis in his/her program coursework (e.g., Elder Policies and Politics). The degree cannot use the words gerontology or public policy as Sacramento State offers specific degrees in those areas.

THESIS/PROJECT
Each Special Major student must complete a culminating thesis or project developed in consultation with the student's faculty committee.