

BS IN GERONTOLOGY



SACRAMENTO STATE

In Workflow

1. GERO Committee Chair (koss@csus.edu)
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3. SSIS College Committee Chair (lo@csus.edu,mummawh@skymail.csus.edu)
4. SSIS Dean (mendriga@csus.edu,wickelgr@csus.edu)
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Approval Path

1. 2025-10-08T19:01:33Z
Catheryn Koss (koss): Approved for GERO Committee Chair
2. 2025-10-08T21:15:52Z
Donna Jensen (donna.jensen): Approved for GERO Chair
3. 2025-10-17T22:15:14Z
Bao Lo (lo): Rollback to GERO Chair for SSIS College Committee Chair
4. 2025-10-17T23:25:39Z
Catheryn Koss (koss): Approved for GERO Chair
5. 2025-10-22T20:09:36Z
Bao Lo (lo): Approved for SSIS College Committee Chair
6. 2025-10-23T02:23:57Z
Emily Wickelgren (wickelgr): Approved for SSIS Dean

History

1. May 3, 2018 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Jan 15, 2019 by Donna Jensen (donna.jensen)
3. Apr 28, 2020 by 220267334
4. Apr 23, 2021 by Katie Dickson (katiedickson)
5. Feb 23, 2022 by Donna Jensen (donna.jensen)
6. Aug 5, 2022 by 302822325
7. Aug 10, 2022 by 302822325
8. Nov 6, 2024 by Donna Jensen (donna.jensen)
9. Nov 26, 2024 by Janett Torset (torsetj)

Date Submitted: 2025-10-08T18:53:51Z

Viewing: BS in Gerontology

Last approved: Tue, 26 Nov 2024 21:02:32 GMT

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Changes proposed by: Catheryn Koss (219696738)

Academic Group: (College)

Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies

Academic Organization: (Department)

Gerontology

Catalog Year Effective:

2026-2027 Catalog

Individual(s) primarily responsible for drafting the proposed degree major program:

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Catheryn Koss	koss@csus.edu	916-278-4341

Type of Program:

Major

Program Change Type:

Substantive

Delivery Format:

Hybrid

Title of the Program:

BS in Gerontology

Designation: (degree terminology)

Bachelor of Science

Briefly describe the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification:

We are proposing changes to the B.S. in Gerontology for the following reasons:

1. We only have one lower division major requirement. We propose requiring a second lower division Gerontology course to provide majors with a stronger foundation as they move into upper division major courses.
2. The Department recently shifted from a mostly in-person program to a hybrid degree. This enables us to recruit students who would otherwise not be able to complete their Gerontology degrees at Sac State, including students who are working and/or caregiving full-time. However, while we have converted most GERO courses to an online format, we are not able to control the modality and frequency of courses offered by other departments. This has caused problems for Gerontology majors when a non-GERO course that is required for the major is not offered on-line or not offered in the semester they need to graduate on time.
3. While some Gerontology majors are needing to complete the degree mostly online, other students are seeking a mix of in-person and online course options either due to their preferred learning styles or because their student aid requires at least some in-person courses (e.g., military-based financial aid).
4. We have received feedback from internship placement agencies and members of the Gerontology Advisory Council on our current course offerings. These local employers and community partners have encouraged us to include more course content relevant to what Gerontology graduates are likely to do in the field (e.g., nonprofit management, health care administration, senior activities programs, navigating ethical issues).
5. Currently, we require Gerontology majors to complete a two-semester practicum (GERO 130 and GERO 131). Many students who are working and/or caregiving struggle to complete the required 8-10 hours/week at agencies over the course of two semesters. Due to faculty and staff reductions, the department has more limited capacity to manage and support all majors to complete two-semester internships. We have consulted with members of our Advisory Council and agencies that frequently work with Gerontology interns. Based on this feedback, we have concluded that, while the two-semester internship provides a deeper learning experience, making the second semester optional preserves the essential benefits students gain through the practicum while lifting some of the burden from students and the department.

Based on the above justifications, we are proposing the following changes (numbers indicate which justifications are addressed by each proposed change):

- Make GERO 10 a required course (currently an elective) (1)
- Make ETHN 133, FACS 141, SWRK 151, and RPTA 117 electives rather than required courses (2)
- Add FACS 100 to the list of courses that can fulfill the research course requirement to give an in-person option (3)
- Expand the number of electives majors take from three to six (3, 4)
- Expand the elective course options to include approximately 40 courses related to ethics, health and healthcare, physical activity and leisure, leadership, family and social wellbeing, mental health, financial wellbeing, human development, and special populations and topics (3, 4)
- Make GERO 130 (currently the first semester of the required practicum) an elective rather than a required course (5)

As we make these changes, we are also updating course listings that have changed and deleting one PLO that we determined to be redundant.

University Learning Goals

Undergraduate Learning Goals:

Competence in the disciplines
 Knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world
 Intellectual and practical skills
 Personal and social responsibility
 Integrative learning

Program Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome
1. Synthesize and apply fundamental interdisciplinary evidence-based knowledge, skills, values, and current trends as a basis for competent gerontological research, policy, and practice.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking, assessment, and problem-solving skills when analyzing diverse and complex aging issues and outcomes for older adults, families, and society.
3. Synthesize and apply interdisciplinary theories and research in community-based settings.
4. Demonstrate social and cultural sensitivity, inclusion, respect, and support of multiple perspectives when interacting with older adults, their families, caregivers, and communities.
5. Demonstrate professional behaviors in class and the community: a) learn about personal responsibility, b) exhibit ethical behavior and c) demonstrate professionalism in serving the needs of older adults, their families, caregivers, and community partners in older adult services.
6. Employ effective communication skills and use of information technology as relevant to older adults, their families, caregivers, and the agencies who provide services to them.
7. Demonstrate professional work skills including: a) written communication, b) verbal communication, c) conflict resolution skills and d) responsibilities to agency, older adults and the larger community.

Learning Outcomes Display

Course Code	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3	PLO 4	PLO 5	PLO 6	PLO 7
Warning! Unable to parse program body. Data Invalid: Area header row cannot be followed by indented row.							

Will this program be required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?

No

Please attach a Comprehensive Program Assessment Plan

Gerontology Major Comprehensive Program Assessment Plan.docx

Please attach a Curriculum Map Matrix

GERO Major Curriculum Map Matrix.docx

Please attach a five-year budget projection

Gerontology Major Budget Projections.docx

Do these changes impact the degree roadmap?

Yes

Please attach the updated roadmap:

Gero roadmap.docx

Briefly describe the change:

The roadmap changes include adding more major electives and removing ETHN 133, FACS 141, and RPTA 117 from the required courses. We shifted GERO 10 and GERO 11 to Year 2 to reflect the recent change from upper division to lower division. We also updated the roadmap to illustrate what GE requirements will be fulfilled with major required courses and which GE requirements may be fulfilled with a major elective.

This updated roadmap uses the current GE requirements. CourseLeaf is not allowing me to update these GE requirements in the program requirements below.

Catalog Description:**Units required for Major: 48****Total units required for BS: 120****Program Description**

The Gerontology Program provides an applied interdisciplinary approach to studying the human aging process and the challenges encountered by older adults and their families as they interact in contemporary society. The curriculum is anchored in life course and humanistic theory, and concentrates on the needs of both healthy and chronically ill elders and their families.

Admission Requirements: Course prerequisites and other criteria for admission of students to the degree major program, and for their continuation in it.

Minimum Grade Requirement

Students must receive a "C" or better in all major and multidisciplinary core/elective courses.

As defined by policy <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/acadaff/fsm00010.htm>, a change in units constitutes a substantive change to the program. If your changes constitute a substantive change, please refer back to the "Program Change Type" field above to ensure that "Substantive" is selected.

Program Requirements: (If new courses are being created as part of a new program, it will be useful to propose courses first.)

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Gerontology Major (48 Units) (54 Units)		
<i>Required Major Core Courses</i>		27
GERO 10	Aging Issues in Contemporary Society	3
GERO 11	Older Adult Services and Strategies	3
GERO 102/PPA 100	Social Policy for an Aging Society	3
GERO 103	Applied Care Management in Gerontological Practice	3
GERO 121	Strategies for Optimal Aging	3
GERO 122	Interprofessional Approaches to Health Care in Older Adults	3
GERO 124/PSYC 151	Perspectives on Death and Dying	3
GERO 125	Moving Toward Equity in California Aging Policy and Practice	3
GERO 131	Gerontology Capstone Practicum	3
Research Course		3
<i>Select one of the following:</i>		
ECON 140	Quantitative Economic Analysis	
ETHN 194	Research in Ethnic Studies	
FACS 100	Research Methods	
GERO 123	Research on Aging & the Life Course	
HTM 110	Research and Evaluation in Recreation, Parks and Tourism	
NURS 170	Foundations for Evidence-Based Nursing Practice	
SOC 102	Research Methods in Sociology	
SWRK 111	Research Methods and Program Evaluation ¹	
Electives (18 Units)		
<i>Select 6 (18 units) of the following:</i>		18
<i>Ethics</i>		
PHIL 102	Professional and Public Service Ethics	
PHIL 104	Bioethics	
PUBH 124	Ethical Considerations in Public Health 	
<i>Health & Healthcare</i>		
HIST 175B	Health, Death and Disease in America 	
NUFD 10	Introduction to Nutrition	
NUFD 113	Nutrition And Metabolism	
NUFD 119	Nutrition: Adolescence Through Older Adulthood	
PUBH 116	Public Health Policy, Management & Administration	
PUBH 150	Aging and Health	
SWRK 151	Health Services and Systems	
WGS 133	Gender & Health	
<i>Physical Activity & Leisure</i>		

KINS 124	The Science of Nature Engagement and Human Health & Wellbeing
KINS 132	Planning, Designing and Managing a Fitness Center
KINS 136	Sport And Aging
RPTA 106	Introduction to Inclusive Recreation and Recreation Therapy
RPTA 117	Recreation Therapy and Contemporary Aspects of Disability
<i>Leadership</i>	
HROB 101	The Management of Contemporary Organizations
KINS 111	Grant Writing for Social, Community and Human Service Organizations
KINS 112	Leadership and Fundraising for Non-profit Organizations
KINS 113	Volunteer Management in Nonprofit, Service, or Community Organizations
<i>Family & Social Wellbeing</i>	
FACS 140	Family Resource Management
FSHD 150	Family Stress and Coping: Multicultural Focus 🖋️🌐
NUFD 114	Cultural and Social Aspects of Food 🌐
PUBH 134	Understanding Human Sexuality
SOC 146	Sociology of Aging
SWRK 138	Violence In The Family
<i>Mental Health</i>	
HLTH 154	Traumatology: An Introduction to Posttraumatic Growth
PSYC 137	Stress Management
PSYC 150	Psychological Aspects of Aging
PSYC 152	Psychological Aspects of Health, Wellness, and Illness
PUBH 130	Alcohol and Other Drugs
<i>Financial Wellbeing</i>	
FACS 141	Family Finance
SWRK 136	Poverty and Homelessness in America
SWRK 150	Welfare In America
<i>Human Development</i>	
FSHD 159	Adulthood and Aging in Human Development
PSYC 3	Human Development
<i>Special Populations & Topics</i>	
ETHN 133	Crosscultural Aging in America 🌐
GERO 130	Gerontology Practicum
GERO 199	Special Problems
SWRK 144	Working with LGBTQ+ Publics
SWRK 191	Exploration of Veteran Studies: An Ethnographic Approach 🖋️
WGS 175	Gender & Disability 🖋️

General Education Requirements¹

Code	Title	Units
Area A: Basic Subjects (9 Units)		
A1 - Oral Communication		3
A2 - Written Communication		3
A3 - Critical Thinking		3
Area B: Physical Universe and Its Life Forms (13 Units)		
B1 - Physical Science		3
B2 - Life Forms		3
B3 - Lab (Note: Lab experience to be taken with one of the following: B1, B2 or B5)		1
B4 - Math Concepts		3
B5 - Additional Course (Any B to reach 12 units) - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.		3
Area C: Arts and Humanities (12 Units)		
C1 - Arts		3
C2 - Humanities		3
C1/C2 - Area C Course		3
C1/C2 - Area C Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.		3
Area D: The Individual and Society (6 Units)		
Area D Course		3

Area D Course	3
Area D Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.	0
Area E: Understanding Personal Development (3 Units)	
Area E Course	3
Area F: Ethnic Studies	
Area F Course	
Total Units	43

¹ To help you complete your degree in a timely manner and not take more units than absolutely necessary, there are ways to use single courses to meet more than one requirement (overlap). For further information, please visit the General Education page (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

Note: There is no way to list all possible overlaps so please consult with a professional advisor. The Academic Advising Center can be visited online (<http://www.csus.edu/acad/>), by phone (916) 278-1000, or email (advising@csus.edu).

Graduation Requirements ¹

Code	Title	Units
Graduation Requirements (required by CSU) (9 Units)		
American Institutions: U.S. History		3
American Institutions: U.S. Constitution & CA Government		3
Writing Intensive (WI)		3
Graduation Requirements (required by Sacramento State) (9 Units)		
English Composition II		3
Race and Ethnicity in American Society (RE)		0
Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement ²		6

¹ To help you complete your degree in a timely manner and not take more units than absolutely necessary, there are ways to use single courses to meet more than one requirement (overlap). For further information, please visit the General Education page (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

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² The methods for satisfying the Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement are described here: <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/world-languages-literatures/foreign-language-requirement.html> (<https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/world-languages-literatures/foreign-language-requirement.html>)

Fiscal Impact to Change an Existing Program

Indicate programmatic or fiscal impact which this change will have on other academic units' programs, and describe the consultation that has occurred with affected units:

There may be some impact on enrollment in the courses that we have reclassified as electives and added to the elective list. We have reached out by email to the chairs in the following departments informing them of the proposed changes and asking for their input: Ethnic Studies, Family and Consumer Sciences, Psychology, Philosophy, Public Health, History, Women's & Gender Studies, Kinesiology, Health Sciences, Child and Adolescent Development, Social Work, and Nutrition, Food, & Dietetics. We have also consulted with members of our advisory council.

Attach a copy of correspondence with these units:

ETHN Consultation.pdf
 Agency Input on Practicum Change.docx
 NUFD Consultation.pdf
 SWRK Consultation.pdf
 CHAD Consultation.pdf
 HS_KINS_PUBH_Consultation.pdf
 KINS Consultation.pdf
 WGS Consultation.pdf
 History Consultation.pdf
 PUBH Consultation.pdf
 PHIL Consultation.pdf
 PSYC Consultation.pdf
 FACS Consultation.pdf

Provide a fiscal analysis of the proposed changes:

There will be no fiscal impact of the proposed changes

How will the above changes be accommodated within the department/College existing fiscal resources?

NA

Will the proposed changes require additional resources?

No

What additional space, equipment, operating expenses, library, computer, or media resources, clerical/technical support, or other resources will be needed?

None

Estimate the cost and indicate how these resource needs will be accommodated:

NA

Reviewer Comments:

Bao Lo (lo) (Fri, 17 Oct 2025 22:15:14 GMT): Rollback: See notes.

Key: 250