**Aging Studies**

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**Priority Admission Application Deadlines:**

**Fall:** December 11

Fall admissions only

International applicant deadlines:

<http://www.grad.usf.edu/majors>

**Minimum Total Hours:** 90

**Level:**  Doctoral

**CIP Code:** 30.1101

**Dept Code:** GEY

**Major/College Codes:** AGE BC

**Approved:** 1994

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**College:** Behavioral & Community Sciences

**Department:** School of Aging Studies (GEY)

**Contact Information:** [www.grad.usf.edu](http://www.grad.usf.edu)

**MAJOR INFORMATION**

The Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Aging Studies is the first of its kind in the United States, and to the best of our knowledge, the world. What makes this major unique is the combined emphasis on providing a broad based foundation in the interdisciplinary aspects of aging with a focus on developing in-depth expertise in a research area. The major draws on the expertise of faculty from multiple colleges, departments, and centers at the University of South Florida to provide students with exposure to other disciplines and their different approaches to scientific and scholarly inquiry.

The Ph.D. in Aging Studies is hosted by the School of Aging Studies, which is the organizational focal point for interdisciplinary research, educational, clinical and community service activities in aging for faculty and students. An interdisciplinary committee of faculty governs the major, allowing students to develop research programs that focus on their particular interests and capitalize on the breadth of opportunities throughout the university.

The Ph.D. in Aging Studies is a research-oriented program designed to train future leaders in the field of aging. The major admits students who show exceptional promise to become strong academic, public sector, and corporate researchers. Students should expect to enroll in the program full time (9 credits in fall, 9 credits in spring, and 6 credits in summer). Students are supported with a stipend plus a tuition waiver, which covers tuition but not student fees, and payment of much of the premium for the student health insurance.  Students who wish to apply as part-time students must contact Dr. Andel before applying.

Faculty Organization

The interdisciplinary nature of the program is exemplified by the number of core faculty who teach and serve on dissertation committees in the program and the range of academic departments they represent. Other faculty from across the university participate in the program.

**ADMISSION INFORMATION**

Must meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions) as well as requirements for admission to the major, listed below.

* A Bachelor’s Degree
* GPA of 3.25
* a current (within the last 5 years) GRE; scores at or above the 50th percentile on Verbal, 30th percentile on quantitative and 50th percentile on analytical writing are preferred.
* Applicants where English is not the language of instruction must also submit a TOEFL iBT score of at least 79 which corresponds to a score of 600 on the old TOEFL Test.
* In addition, students must submit
  + their best example of a single authored writing sample
  + a summary of their career goals and past preparation for a research career
  + three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the student’s work and/or research

**CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

**Minimum Hours - 90 credit hours beyond the baccalaureate**

Core Requirements – 34 credit hours

Dir. Research/Dissertation- 56 credit hours

**CORE REQUIREMENTS – 34 credit hours**

**Courses -12 hours**

GEY 7610 3 Psychological Aging: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

GEY 7604 3 Biomedical Aging

GEY 7649 3 Population Aging

GET 7623 3 Social and Health Aspects of Aging

Each core course is taught from an interdisciplinary perspective with faculty from different fields addressing issues from their disciplinary perspectives.

**Methods Courses - 6 hours minimum**

GEY 6402 3 Statistical & Qualitative Methods in Aging Research

GEY 6403 3 Multivariate Statistical Analysis for Aging Research

Students must also enroll in a sequence of at least two methods/statistics courses and are encouraged to obtain additional training in methods relevant to their dissertation.

**Proseminar and Content Seminar - 16 credits minimum**

GEY 7936 4 Aging Studies Pro-seminar

GEY 7602 3 Ph.D. Seminar in Health and Aging

GEY 7611 3 Ph.D. Seminar in Mental Health

GEY 7622 3 Ph.D. Seminar in Policy and Elderly

GEY 7651 3 Ph.D. Seminar in Cognition

Students are required to enroll in the GEY 7936 Aging Studies Pro-seminar (2 credits) each fall of their first 2 years in the program. They must also enroll for at least four Content Seminars (GEY 7602, GEY 7611, GEY 7622, GEY7651) (3 credits). The Pro-seminars investigate different research topics, allow students to practice presenting their research, and provide students with exposure to distinguished lecturers from throughout the U.S. The content seminars cover different topics relevant to aging each spring semester.

**Elective Requirement**

There are no requirements, other than the total minimum credit hours mentioned above. Each Ph.D. student, in consultation with his/her major advisor, designs an appropriate curriculum to obtain content and skills that match their research interests.

**Project – 1 credit hour (recommended)**

GEY 7911 1 Directed Research in Aging Studies

It is recommended that all students complete a First Year Research Project, designed to be presented at a national conference in the fall of their second year. Students develop individualized courses of study, allowing specialization in a wide variety of content areas and research methods. Supervised research experience is available from a number of faculty with diverse research expertise. Students should enroll for GEY 7911 (Directed Research in Aging Studies) for 1 credit hour for a grade of S/U.

**Comprehensive/Qualifying exam**

The qualifying examination is usually taken during the end of the second year of course work, or the following Fall semester.

**Dissertation - 56 hours minimum**

At least two (2) credits of Dissertation every semester after admission to candidacy; if more than minimum of required course credit is taken, then fewer credits of Directed Research are required.

GEY 7911 1-19 Directed Research in Aging Studies

GEY 7980 2-12 Dissertation

**COURSES**

<https://www.systemacademics.usf.edu/course-inventory/>