



MS in Gerontology – Research/Policy

The Program

Gerontology is a rapidly expanding field of study focused on aging processes and aging populations. Advanced work in gerontology is interdisciplinary, bridging theories, concepts, and research methods drawn from the social and behavioral sciences.

The MS in Gerontology Program Research/Policy track is designed to prepare students for fulfilling careers working with the fastest growing segment of the population: adults aged 65 years or older. Opportunities for careers in gerontology and aging policy have grown considerably with population aging. The curriculum of UMass Boston's MS in Gerontology Research/Policy Program meets this demand by addressing social science theories, research techniques, and content to provide students with the tools to accomplish basic and applied research in aging and social policy. Students gain practical experience conducting research and analysis and learn written, oral, and listening skills needed to communicate effectively.

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from accredited college
- Undergraduate GPA of 3.00 or better
- Transcripts of all prior academic work
- 3 three letters of recommendation
- Personal statement & resume

UMass Boston Gerontology is strongly committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and welcomes applications from members of historically underrepresented groups. This program enrolls full-time and part-time students. Applications are due June 1."

Degree Requirements

Coursework

Students in the Gerontology Research/Policy MS Program must accumulate 36 credits. The program may be completed in two years: four semesters of full-time coursework, and a capstone project.

Four foundation courses (12 credits)

Emphasizing different disciplinary approaches to aging

- Social Aspects of Aging
- Psychology of Aging
- Economic Issues in Aging Populations
- Issues in Aging Policy

Two research courses, (6 credits)

Emphasizing research methods and statistics

- Research Methods and Experimental Design
- Statistical Methods I

At least five elective courses (15 credits)

Examples of graduate-level elective courses:

- Health and Physical Changes in Aging
- Families in Later Life
- Diversity in Aging Societies
- Policy Analysis Techniques
- Independent Study in Gerontology
- Internship Study in Gerontology
- Statistical Methods II
- Qualitative Methods and Field Research

A Capstone Project

The capstone seminar offers students the opportunity to develop a special project specific to their interests. The course assists students in applying and demonstrating mastery of the knowledge and skills developed during their course of study. Students are expected to take this class at or near the end of their coursework.

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MS in Gerontology – Research & Policy

Our Faculty

Jaqueline C Avila, PhD, University of Texas Medical Branch
• Population Health (Social determinants of health, tobacco-related disparities, cross-national comparisons)

Jeffrey A Burr, PhD, University of Texas at Austin • Sociology (Social demography, labor force, productive activity, aging and health)

Marc Cohen, PhD, Brandeis University • Social Welfare (Long-term services and supports (LTSS), care coordination, falls prevention)

Caitlin Coyle, PhD, University of Massachusetts Boston • Gerontology (Social aspects of health, isolation, disability)

Elizabeth Dugan, PhD, University of North Carolina Greensboro • Human development and family studies (Older drivers, healthy aging, psychological outcomes)

Edward Alan Miller, PhD, University of Michigan • Political Science and Health Services Organization & Policy (LTSS, evaluation, intergovernmental relations, e-health)

Jan E Mutchler, PhD, University of Texas at Austin • Sociology (Diversity, intergenerational support, health disparities, economic security, social demography)

Pamela Nadash, PhD, Columbia University • Public Health and Political Science (LTSS, comparative health policy, consumer choice, integrated care)

Sung Park, PhD, UCLA • Sociology (minority aging, economic inequalities, work as a social) determinant of health, caregiving, immigration, social demography)

Qian Song, PhD, University of Albany, SUNY • Sociology (Migration and health, aging and life course, health and wellbeing, neighborhood effects, bereavement)

Jeffrey Stokes, PhD, Boston College • Sociology (Marriage and family, aging and life course, health and wellbeing, neighborhood effects, bereavement)

Christian Weller, PhD, University of Massachusetts Amherst
• Economics (Private pensions, Social Security, retirement)

University of Massachusetts Boston

UMass Boston is nationally recognized as a model of excellence for urban public universities, and part of the University of Massachusetts system. UMass Boston combines a closeness of community with the vast resources of a major research university, including extensive laboratories and computer resources, intramural and intercollegiate athletic facilities, and a world class library. Concerts, lectures, and plays on campus offer additional opportunities for a satisfying student life. The scenic waterfront campus, with easy access to Boston's culturally rich downtown, is located next to the John. F. Kennedy Library & Museum and the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate.


Notable Facts about the Department

- Established in 1988 as one of the first Gerontology academic departments
- Our graduates are employed as research associates and analysts in academic and non-academic settings and/or pursue doctoral degrees in gerontology, aging policy, or other aging-related fields
- Our alumni have published several thousand journal articles, reports, chapters, and books
- Our alumni include the Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs and Chair of the United Nations NGO Committee on Ageing - Geneva

Gerontology Institute at UMass Boston

Faculty and students work closely with the Institute and its centers of excellence:

- Pension Action Center
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
- LeadingAge LTSS Center
- Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging
- Peer-reviewed Journals
 - *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*
 - *Research on Aging*

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