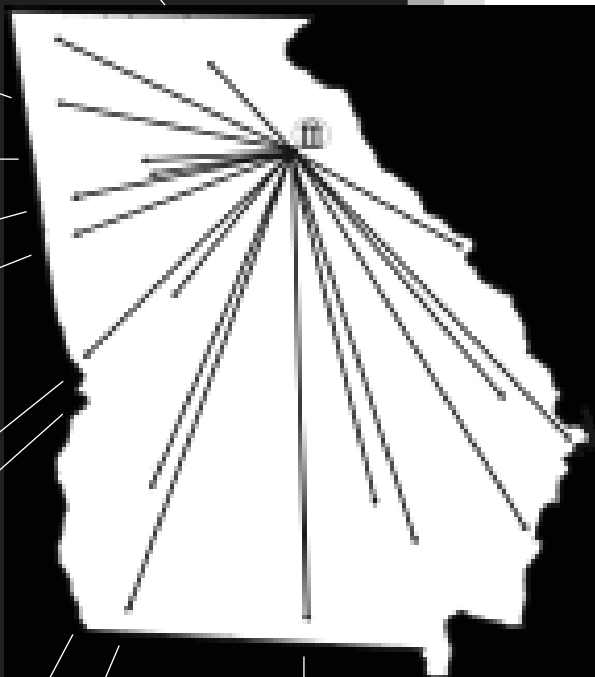


Graduate Certificate of Gerontology



The University of Georgia

The dedicated staff of The University of Georgia Institute of Gerontology serve Georgia citizens and UGA students and faculty. Should you have any questions about the Gerontology Certificate Program, our mission, or our other programs, we invite you to contact us for additional information. For your convenience, contact information is provided below. The Institute of Gerontology maintains a website (<http://www.geron.uga.edu>) where you may find additional information about our programs and other timely materials.

Contact Information:
255 E. Hancock Ave.
Athens, GA 30602-1775
Telephone: (706) 425-3222
Fax: (706) 425-3221
<http://www.geron.uga.edu>

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Graduate Certificate of Gerontology at The University of Georgia

In July, 1965, the President of the University of Georgia appointed an all-University Council on Gerontology consisting of twelve members representing a diversity of institutes, centers, departments, schools and colleges across the University. Since that time, the Council has expanded to approximately a 45-member Faculty of Gerontology from 21 departments, and 10 colleges and schools across the University.

The Institute of Gerontology at The University of Georgia is part of the College of Public Health. Through the Faculty of Gerontology, the institute offers a graduate program of study in the field of gerontology, awarding students a Graduate Certificate of Gerontology. Undergraduate students in the Honors Program are also eligible to obtain the Graduate Certificate. The program is interdisciplinary and contains sufficient flexibility to permit students to tailor the focus of their Certificate work to their particular interests. The Certificate program represents a recognized and substantial academic accomplishment, which a student typically completes in addition to a graduate degree.

In this booklet you will find a detailed description of the Graduate Certificate of Gerontology offered at The University of Georgia. If you would like any additional information beyond that contained in this booklet, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be pleased to assist you.

The Institute of Gerontology maintains a website that contains additional information about the Center and its programs, including downloadable versions of forms relevant to the Graduate Certificate Program. The website address is:
<http://www.geron.uga.edu>.

Program Goals

The curriculum for The University of Georgia Graduate Certificate of Gerontology program is designed to meet the following goals:

- Students are presented with a comprehensive theoretical overview of the field of gerontology. The interdisciplinary and integrative nature of gerontology is emphasized.
- In addition to a broad, interdisciplinary perspective, students are required to acquire a basic foundation in the psychology, biology/physiology, and sociology of aging.
- There are opportunities for students to have practical or hands-on experiences with older adults in the form of community service or course practica.
- Students are exposed to gerontological research techniques and methodologies, permitting them to develop their own analytic and evaluative skills.
- Students complete either a research project or field work placement practicum focused on some aspect of gerontology.
- Students supplement their own disciplinary academic expertise with gerontological content and methods to advance their aging research and practice.

Admission

The first step in securing admission to the Graduate Certificate of Gerontology Program is to complete the Application for Admission in this brochure (Page 10) and return it to the Institute of Gerontology. Upon receipt of the application, the Assistant Director of the Institute of Gerontology, Dr. Anne Glass, will notify the student of receipt of their application and invite the student to meet and discuss the proposed program of study to determine if the student has any special needs. Dr. Leonard W. Poon, Institute Director, is also available to meet with any student upon request. Qualified applicants will be notified of their acceptance into the Program within approximately 30 days after receipt of their completed application.

It is essential that students apply for admission to the Certificate Program as early in their own program of graduate study as possible. This will facilitate completion of the Certificate Program's requirements with maximal efficiency. For example, some courses would qualify for credit towards both the Gerontology Certificate and the student's own program of study in their discipline. A student should not refrain from applying for admission to the Certificate Program even if he or she is not ready to describe a specific planned course of study. An application with a partially completed planned course of study will not compromise admission into the Program.

Certificate Course Requirements

Students will complete a total of 18 semester hours of graduate level courses to meet the requirements of the Certificate Program. All students must complete the introductory gerontology course, GRNT 6000 (3 hours). Nine hours must be taken from the three clusters of required courses outlined on this page. Three hours must be fulfilled to meet a research/practicum requirement as described on Page 4. The remaining three hours may be chosen from the list of elective courses on Page 5.

Additional Requirements

In addition to completing 18 semester hours of graduate level courses, each student must also present one poster at any annual Southern Regional Student Conference in Gerontology and Geriatrics, sponsored by the Institute of Gerontology, that is held during their matriculation through the Program. Additional details about this requirement are available upon request.

Required Courses

GRNT 6000 - Three Hours Seminar in Aging

All students are required to complete GRNT 6000 - Seminar in Aging. This course should be completed at the beginning of the program of study. The purpose of the seminar is to provide students with an overview of gerontology. The course has been specially designed to be taken at the beginning of the program. The various contents included in this seminar course should be helpful in deciding what Certificate courses are most relevant to a student's individualized plan of study. No alternatives can be used to fulfill this requirement.

All students are required to complete at least one course from each of these three clusters of courses listed in the right column.

POD = Permission of Department

1. Biology/Physiology - Three Hours

GRNT 6010 Biogerontology

The physiological and anatomical changes that occur as a person ages. The basics of the biology of aging followed by a system by system description of the aging phenomena in the human body.

CBIO 6340 Biology of Aging

Biological processes accompanying aging in human and other organisms. Emphasis on physiological decline; theoretical explanations; attempts to prolong life; and the utility and limitations of model systems used to analyze human aging. Prerequisite: POD.

FDNS 8530 Nutrition and Disease Processes I

FDNS 8550 Nutrition and Disease Processes II

These two courses can be taken together to meet the Biology requirement. (See page 5 for course descriptions.)

2. Psychology - Three Hours

GRNT/PSYC 6700 Psychology of Aging

Research in gerontology, with emphasis on learning, personality, attitudes, perception, ability, and adjustment in the aged.

PSYC 8810 Psychology of Health and Illness

Psychological influences on health, illness, and responses to those states. Psychological origins and outcomes of health policy and health interventions.

3. Sociology - Three Hours

GRNT 6650 Aging In Society

The social and cultural nature of human aging in society. Aging as a social process, and age as a structural feature of changing societies and groups, are explored as a consequence of the interactions of individuals with their social and cultural environments. Cross-cultural emphasis.

CHFD/HACE 6500 Aging and the Family

Review of theory, research, and methodology on aging and the family. Emphasis rests with identifying current concepts, controversies, and diversity in families and aging individuals.

JURI 7720 Elder Law

Addresses the legal aspects associated with aging. Federal and state elderly programs and problems.

SOCI 6650 Sociology of Aging

The status, roles, and demographic aspects of the aging population and its relationship with social institutions. Prerequisite: SOCI 1101 or SOCI 1600 or POD.

Certificate Course Requirements

Research/Practicum Experience

All students are required to complete three hours in a research or practicum experience.

Students whose discipline is focused on research may submit a thesis or dissertation which they completed to fulfill Master's or Doctoral requirements within their academic department, or they may complete an individual research project for not less than three hours of credit. The thesis, dissertation, or research project must focus on some aspect of aging, and the project must be approved by the Institute of Gerontology's Director or Assistant Director in writing, prior to development of the project in order to qualify for the Certificate.

Students whose discipline has a practitioner's emphasis may complete an approved practicum in a gerontological setting for not less than three hours credit. The practicum experience must be approved in writing by the Institute of Gerontology's Director or Assistant Director before beginning.

The student should describe the research project or practicum plan in a letter to the Assistant Director of the Institute of Gerontology or complete the form on Page 13 in this brochure. The student will receive a written response regarding the suitability of the proposed plan for the Gerontology Certificate. Additionally, the student and his or her advisor must submit written documentation to the Center that the project has been approved through the specialty department, and that the project was completed as proposed. When the project has been completed, the Completion form on Page 15 must be completed and submitted to the Assistant Director of the Institute of Gerontology. As noted above, dissertations, theses

and disciplinary practica completed in departments may fulfill this requirement, as long as it is determined that the subject matter is suitable for the Certificate before the project begins. When the credit for the thesis, dissertation, or practicum is awarded by any academic unit other than the Institute of Gerontology, the responsibility for evaluating the quality of the work resides solely in that department.

GRNT 6390 Service Learning with the Elderly

GRNT 6390 is a supervised field experience designed to assist in reinforcing knowledge, theories and principles gained through courses related to gerontology. This course is an opportunity for Certificate students to develop a practicum experience in gerontology and receive credit towards the Certificate. Students who would like to enroll in GRNT 6390 should complete the form on Page 17 in this booklet. No one will be admitted to the course without completing the form.

The Assistant Director of the Institute of Gerontology must approve the practicum before it begins and will be listed as course instructor. However, the student will be free to collaborate with any supervising faculty member who is appropriate to supervise their project. It is the responsibility of the student to identify the practicum opportunity and the prospective supervisor. The supervising faculty member will assign the grade (Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory) through the Assistant Director and will retain complete autonomy in their relationship with the student. A letter addressed to the Assistant Director of the Institute of Gerontology is required from the supervisor for verification that the practicum has been completed as proposed.

The University of Georgia and the Institute of Gerontology do not provide liability insurance coverage during a student practicum. If a student chooses to carry liability insurance, or if coverage is deemed necessary by the supervisor at the practicum site, this issue should be discussed with the student's advisor in his or her academic program.

Elective Course

In addition to the required courses and the research/practicum experience, students must complete an additional three hours of course work from the list of courses described below or from the courses outlined in the clusters of basic foundation courses not previously taken on Page 3 of this booklet. Unless otherwise stated, each is a three semester hour course.

CHFD 6600 Social Ecological Perspectives on Adult Development and Aging

Reviews theory and research on development from mid-life through advanced old age. Focus is on the changing individual in a social context, including social development, social cognition, and aging. Prerequisite: CHFD(HACE) 4500/6500.

EADU 6070 Survey of Educational Gerontology

Social gerontology with an emphasis on adult education. Background knowledge on aging dealing specifically with program development and the involvement of older adults in educational programs is provided.

EADU 8090 Adult Development and Instruction

Adult developmental psychology, including the nature of adult development; issues and trends in the field; theories of adult growth and development; changes in young, middle, and older adulthood; and implications for instruction and learning of adults.

EXRS 6320 Exercise and Aging

Biological and psychological effects of aging in relation to physical activity and exercise. Prerequisite: EXRS 4630/6630-4630L/6630L and POD.

FDNS 6560 Nutrition and Aging

Foods and nutrients in the health and well-being of the elderly; effects of aging on macro and micro-nutrient needs; influence of disease, medications, economics, and culture; nutritional assessment, support, and services; health promotion and disease prevention; future directions for research. Prerequisite: (FDNS 3100 or FDNS 4050/6050) and (CBIO 2210-2210L or VPHY 3100)

FDNS 8530 Nutrition and Disease Processes I

Epidemiological, clinical, animal, and cellular studies linking diet and diseases including cancer and heart disease. Biochemical and physiological mechanisms by which nutrients prevent disease. Prerequisite: FDNS 4100/6100 or FDNS 6400 or POD. (Course suited for FDNS majors.)

FDNS 8550 Nutrition and Disease Processes II

Epidemiological, clinical, animal, and cellular studies linking diet and diseases such as diabetes, osteoporosis, other musculoskeletal disorders, and sensory dysfunction. Biochemical and physiological mechanisms by which nutrients prevent disease. Prerequisite: POD.

GRNT 8000 Advanced Topics in Gerontological Research and Theory

Interdisciplinary topics and new developments in gerontological research and theory, focused on a specific theme. Prerequisite: POD.

GRNT 8010 Advanced Topics in Gerontology Practice

Interdisciplinary topics on new developments in the practice of gerontology. Prerequisite: POD.

HACE 6810 Housing the Elderly

Housing needs and conditions, housing alternatives, legislation and current programs related to housing elderly persons. Survey of current housing is compared to proposals for effectively meeting more of the housing needs of the elderly person.

HPRB 7170 Aging and Health

Health promotion, risk reduction, health maintenance, and health problems of the elderly, from an individual, community, cultural, and policy perspective.

PEDS 7100* Motor Development

Development of fundamental motor skills from childhood to old age with emphasis on concomitant physiological and motor skill stages of development.

GRNT (PSYC) 7266 Death, Dying, and Bereavement

Multi- and inter-disciplinary approaches are used to explore death, dying, and bereavement from a variety of biopsychosocial perspectives.

PEDS 7640* Developmental and Motor Assessment

Assessment and interpretation techniques for evaluating physical, motor, and recreational capabilities of individuals with disabilities. Prerequisite: PEDS 4610/6610- 4610L/6610L.

PSYC 8890 Seminar in Developmental Processes

Current topics in developmental psychology. Emphasis on independent study and research. Prerequisite: POD.

RLST 7380 Leisure and Aging

Leisure behavior in later life with attention to programs and services for older adults in both community and institutional settings.

SOWK 6142 Social Work with Older Adults

Exploration of human behavior, practice research, and policies regarding interventions with diverse and vulnerable adults.

* Approval Pending

POD = Permission of Department

Certificate Curriculum Policies

Transfer Credits

In special circumstances, students have the opportunity to take a graduate level gerontology course at another institution in a traditional classroom situation or through distance learning. Students may transfer one graduate course into their Certificate program, if appropriate. A student must supply the Assistant Director of the Institute of Gerontology with a copy of the syllabus that will be used in the course. The Assistant Director, in consultation with other gerontology faculty if necessary, will review the syllabus to determine if the course is appropriate for Certificate credit. Approval for completed courses cannot be obtained retroactively. Therefore, the student must take responsibility to seek approval from the Institute of Gerontology before enrolling in a course at another college or university.

Independent Study Credits

In certain circumstances, the GRNT 8000 and GRNT 8010 courses may be taken as independent study courses. No more than three hours of the Certificate Program can be taken in this manner. The student may enroll in an independent study course of a specific department and also have the course counted under GRNT designation to apply towards the Certificate, if appropriate. The Assistant Director of the Institute of Gerontology must approve the use of GRNT courses for independent study during the semester before enrollment in the independent study begins.

The procedures for crafting an independent study are:

1. The student will complete the Application Form for GRNT 8000 or 8010 included in this booklet on Page 19 to identify a specific area of interest for these credits. The form must be submitted to the Assistant Director and a meeting held to discuss how this particular content cannot be investigated in any of the other approved Certificate courses.
2. The student must also secure consent in writing from a gerontology faculty member who will supervise the independent study. If a student does not have a particular faculty member identified, the Assistant Director can assist the student with this process.
3. The student, in conjunction with the supervising faculty member, will construct learning objectives for the independent study. These will concretely identify what the student will learn from the experience.
4. The student will submit a proposal that outlines the requirements for the independent study along with the Application Form to the Assistant Director of the Institute of Gerontology. The form will include the assignments the student will complete (e.g., a

literature review of a particular area) and the product which will be evaluated for the course grade (e.g., completed paper, article or chapter submitted for publication, grant proposal). Both the student and the faculty member who will supervise the independent study will sign the proposal.

5. The student will supply the Institute of Gerontology with a copy of the independent study course assignment at the conclusion of the semester.

Inactive Student Status

Students who have not taken a course in the Certificate Program over a three-year period will be classified as “inactive” status. If an inactive student chooses to complete the Certificate, he or she should contact the Assistant Director of the Institute of Gerontology who will make an appointment for advising. At this meeting, the student’s tentative program of study will be reviewed, appropriate courses for completing the Certificate will be discussed, and the “inactive” status will be lifted.

Completion of the Graduate Certificate of Gerontology

Upon completing the requirements for the Gerontology Certificate, the student should complete the form on Page 21 of this booklet and submit it to the Assistant Director. The Institute of Gerontology will obtain a copy of the student’s transcript from the Registrar’s Office to verify that the required program of study has been completed.

Frequently Asked Questions

To become a student in the Certificate Program, do I have to be enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Georgia, or can I simply enroll in the Certificate Program?

In order to enroll in the Certificate Program, students must first be admitted to the Graduate School as either a prospective candidate for a graduate degree in an academic department or in a non-degree seeking status with Gerontology as the major. Undergraduate students in the Honors Program may also apply and should contact the Assistant Director. The Assistant Director of the Institute of Gerontology will provide advice to interested students on the necessary steps to secure admission.

I am completing a Master's degree and I am interested in the Certificate Program, but I am not sure how it would fit into my program of study. Can I complete the requirements for my degree and the Certificate and still graduate in two years?

The Certificate Program is designed so that elective courses in most programs that have been approved as Certificate courses can be used to fulfill Certificate requirements. Courses may be used to count towards both a Master's degree and the Gerontology Certificate if they fulfill requirements of both programs. With proper planning, one can complete both programs of study in a two-year period.

I have already completed a Master's (Doctoral) degree and wish to come to the University of Georgia for the sole purpose of completing the Graduate Certificate of Gerontology. Is this possible?

Yes. A number of individuals have completed the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology after having earned Master's or Doctoral degrees. Admission must be secured from the Graduate School as a non-degree candidate. The Assistant Director will guide individuals to appropriate departments and personnel in the Graduate School who will provide assistance in gaining admission to the Graduate School under these circumstances.

What if I am unable to complete all of the requirements before I graduate? Is it possible for me to continue to take courses to earn the Certificate of Gerontology?

Yes. If all Certificate of Gerontology requirements cannot be met before graduation from a degree program, work can still be done toward the Certificate after graduation. Non-degree status must be granted through the Graduate School early in the semester before enrollment in courses as a non-degree student.

How will completing the Graduate Certificate of Gerontology help me in my job search?

The completion of the Certificate will be formally noted on your transcript and will indicate to prospective employers that, in addition to training within a particular discipline and degree program, formal interdisciplinary training in gerontology has been obtained.

How long do I have to finish the Certificate? Is there a deadline?

The Institute of Gerontology does not impose a time limit for receiving the Certificate. If classes have not been taken over a three-year period, a student will be considered "inactive." Students who have been classified as "inactive" can have the status lifted by scheduling an advisory session with the Assistant Director of the Institute of Gerontology. This meeting is necessary to review the courses which are available and necessary for completion of the Certificate requirements.

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Application for Admission

The Graduate Certificate of Gerontology will be granted to students admitted to the Gerontology Certificate Program upon notification to the Chair of the Faculty of Gerontology that the student has completed his or her approved program of study.

Please return this completed application to:

Anne Glass, Ph.D.
Assistant Director & Graduate Coordinator
Institute of Gerontology
College of Public Health
255 E. Hancock Ave.
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-5775

Application for Admission to the Graduate Certificate of Gerontology Program

All students who wish to earn The University of Georgia Graduate Certificate of Gerontology must complete this application to be admitted to the program.

Name _____

Social Security Number _____

Address _____

Permanent Address if other than above _____

Telephone Number (Home) _____

(Work) _____

Email address _____

Date of Birth _____

Have you been admitted to the University of Georgia Graduate School as a prospective candidate for a degree or a non-degree candidate?

Degree _____ Nondegree _____ Date of Admission to the Graduate School _____

University of Georgia degree objective and major department:

Please list any undergraduate and graduate degrees that you have earned:

Institution	Degree	Major	Date
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Undergraduate Grade Point Average (on a 4-point scale, A = 4) _____

Graduate Record Examination Scores: Verbal _____ Quantitative _____

Major Professor/Faculty Advisor: _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Graduate Certificate of Gerontology Request for Prior Approval of Practicum or Research Project

This form must be submitted prior to enrolling in a practicum or beginning a research project in order for the activity to apply to the Graduate Certificate of Gerontology. This policy applies to all students who complete the Graduate Certificate, regardless of whether the activity is done through their primary academic department or the Institute of Gerontology. Please return the completed application to Assistant Director, Institute of Gerontology, 255 E. Hancock Ave., Univ. of Georgia, Athens, GA, 30602-5775.

Student's Name

Date

Local Address

Telephone (Work)

(Home)

Email Address

Please briefly describe the project that you wish to apply toward the practicum or research requirement for the Graduate Certificate of Gerontology. Please state exactly what you will do and what the completed project will be. (Use additional pages, if necessary.)

Who will supervise the above project (both on-site and UGA faculty member, if a practicum; UGA faculty member only for research)?

Name

Name

Address

Address

Phone

Phone

Graduate Certificate of Gerontology Request for Prior Approval of Practicum or Research Project

In what specific course are you enrolling to receive credit for this project or practicum?

How many credit hours will you receive and what semester will you enroll in this course?



Approvals:

Student's signature

Date

Supervising Faculty Member's signature

Date

Institute of Gerontology Assistant Director's signature

Date



Graduate Certificate of Gerontology Notice of Completion of Practicum or Research Project

This form is to be completed at the time a practicum or research project has been completed. Please do not complete this form if the practicum or research project has not received prior written approval from the Institute of Gerontology. Please return this completed form to Assistant Director, Institute of Gerontology, 255 E. Hancock Ave., University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 30602-1775.

Student's Name

Local Address

Telephone (Work)

(Home)

Email Address

Date that the research project or practicum was approved: _____

Date that the research project or practicum was completed: _____

Course number, semester enrolled and number of credits received for research project or practicum: _____

Brief descriptive title of research project or practicum: _____

Please attach a copy of the final product (paper, summary, thesis, etc.) that resulted from the research project or practicum.

Graduate Certificate of Gerontology Notice of Completion of Practicum or Research Project

Approvals:

Student's signature

Date

Supervising Faculty Member's signature

Date

Institute of Gerontology Assistant Director's signature

Date

Graduate Certificate of Gerontology

Application for GRNT 6390

Service Learning with the Elderly

 Name

Date

 Local Address

 Telephone Number (Work)

(Home)

 Email Address

Please provide a description of your practicum activities and the length of your service, as well as the amount of time per week (Use additional pages, if necessary).

 Who will supervise your practicum off-campus?

 Name

 Address

 Phone

Email Address

Who will be the responsible, off-campus faculty supervisor?

 Name

 Address

 Telephone

Email Address

Graduate Certificate of Gerontology

Application for GRNT 6390

Service Learning with the Elderly

What are the goals of the practicum? (Use additional pages, if necessary)

What finished product do you expect to have when the practicum is completed?

Note: Neither The University of Georgia nor the Institute of Gerontology provide liability insurance for the student's participation in this Practicum.

Approvals:

Student's signature Date

On-site Practicum Supervisor's signature Date

UGA Faculty Supervisor's signature Date

Institute of Gerontology Assistant Director's signature Date

Graduate Certificate of Gerontology Application for Independent Study GRNT 8000 or 8010

 Name

Date

 Address

 Telephone Number (Home)

(Work)

 Email Address

 This Application is for GRNT 8000 GRNT 8010

Please provide a title and description of the independent study activities you plan to conduct (Use additional pages, if necessary).

 Title: _____

Who will supervise the above independent study (both on-site and UGA faculty member, if a practicum; UGA faculty only for research topic)?

 Name

Name

 Address

Address

 Email Address

Email Address

Graduate Certificate of Gerontology Application for Independent Study GRNT 8000 or 8010

What are the goals of the Independent Study?

What finished product do you expect to have when the Independent Study is completed?

Approvals:

Student's signature

Date

Faculty Supervisor's signature

Date

Institute of Gerontology Assistant Director's signature

Date

Graduate Certificate of Gerontology

Request for Gerontology Certificate

Name (as you want it to appear on Certificate)

Date

Mailing Address (for Certificate)

Telephone Number (Home)

(Work)

Email Address

Please list courses that have been completed for the Graduate Certificate of Gerontology
(15 hours).

Please list the course that was completed for the practicum or research project (3 hours).

Please list the title of your poster and year of its presentation at the Southern Regional Student
Convention in Gerontology & Geriatrics.

Student's signature

Date

Institute of Gerontology Assistant Director's signature

Date

Please note that you cannot receive your Graduate Certificate of Gerontology until all classes listed above have been completed and appear on your transcript, and the final version of your practicum or research project has been submitted to the Center. Please mail this completed form to: Assistant Director, Institute of Gerontology, 255 E. Hancock Ave., University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-5775.



The University of Georgia

Institute of Gerontology
255 E. Hancock Ave.
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