

CERTIFICATE IN *Aging and the Life Course*

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY



Aging

Aging as a (Universal) Process

- Be aware of unique issues of older adults
- Both specialized knowledge and compassionate care are needed to help older adults with the unique challenges they face in their day-to-day lives.

Aging is our future

- Everyone ages and gaining insight into gerontological studies can help you further support both older adults and yourself.

Growth

Increased need for education and services for a rapidly growing population

- The older adult population is rapidly growing and due to this, there is an increased demand for trained professionals to address the needs of older adults.
- The older adult population is growing rapidly, we need you. As a social worker, you can play a key role in the lives of older adults and ensure they are not left behind.



Occupation

Job Security

- People will continue to live longer, knowledge to learn life skills, compassion
Since people are living longer, there is an increased demand for professionals who can help aging adults navigate their changing lives.
- To advocate for our aging population to age in place in their home and community
- With your unique skill set as a social worker, you can help older adults age in place, advocate for their needs, and provide community-based support.

Academic Training in Gerontology

Gerontology/Aging intersects every industry!

- Gerontology intersects with nearly every industry and as a social worker, your skills will be very valuable in this field.
- Gerontology studies will allow us to more effectively interact and communicate with a valuable generation of people
- Studying gerontology can help you engage with older adults more effectively which can build trust and understanding through an intergenerational lens.

Compassion, Empathy, & Understanding

Personal

- Better understanding of your parents & society

Understanding aging enhances your relationships with your own family members, including parents and grandparents, while deepening your awareness of societal dynamics.

- Culture competence and new ideas

Gerontology can open your mind to being more sensitive in the aspect of diverse aging and cultural experiences.

Empathy

- Makes you a caring and empathetic person

Studying gerontology can lead to heightened emotional intelligence (EQ) which can make you a more caring, patient, and effective social worker.

- Older adults can feel forgotten

As people age, they slowly lose connections over time. As a social worker working with older adults, you can provide this population with a much-needed connection and help restore their sense of belonging.

Empowerment

- Aging is cool; everyone is doing it!

Aging is a natural part of life and being part of the movement to reframe aging can be both exciting and rewarding!

- To help improve the well-being of people as they age

Social work and gerontology share a common goal: improving well-being. By specializing in aging, you expand your ability to change lives—now and into the future.



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