

WHAT CAN A MINOR OR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GERONTOLOGY ADD TO YOUR NURSING DEGREE?

UNC Charlotte offers an Undergraduate Minor and Graduate Certificate in Gerontology (with an [Early Entry](#) option)

WHAT IS GERONTOLOGY?

Gerontology is the study of longevity. Students of gerontology study not only physiological changes that occur with aging, but also social roles, normative expectations, attitudes and beliefs, stereotypes, and policy, health and economic issues which define the aging experience.

HOW DOES GERONTOLOGY COMPLEMENT MY NURSING DEGREE?

Expertise in gerontology will better equip you to care for the patients you are likely to encounter-older adults; since the U.S. is projected to have greater numbers of older adults than ever before in the next thirty years, we know that a growing proportion of the patient population will be older adults. Sadly, studies show that most nursing students prefer not to work with older adults, and many people perceive older adults as fragile, sickly, or dependent. However, this is not the case for most older adults. For this reason, as well as the increasing life expectancies and diversity of the older adult population, nurses with expertise in gerontology are a valuable asset in many health care settings. Specialization in gerontology will not only enhance your skills as a nurse working with older adults, but it will set you apart as unique and place you in an ideal role to serve in leadership and mentoring capacities in order to enhance care of older adults at your agency.

WHAT UNC CHARLOTTE FACULTY SPECIALIZE IN THIS AREA AND WHAT ARE THEIR RESEARCH INTERESTS?

Patricia Crane, PhD, RN, FAHA, FNAP, pcrane2@uncc.edu

Belk Endowed Chair; Developing interventions to mitigate fatigue in adults post myocardial infarction

Jyotsana Parajuli, RN, PhD, jparajul@uncc.edu

Palliative and end-of-life care for older adults with cancer.

Meredith Troutman-Jordan, PhD, meredithtroutman@uncc.edu.

Successful aging, psychiatric mental health, health promotion in older adults.

Job Chen, PhD, job.chen@uncc.edu.

Health Psychology, relational spirituality, environmental psychology, equanimity.

WHAT ARE SOME CAREER RESOURCES BEYOND UNC Charlotte?

Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing

<https://hign.org/>

AARP

www.aarp.org

Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education Careers in Aging

www.careersinaging.com/careersinaging/

The Gerontological Society of America Careers in Gerontology

www.geron.org/StudentOrg/careers.htm

Southern Gerontological Society

<http://www.wfu.edu/gerontology/sgs/>

UNC Institute on Aging

<http://www.aging.unc.edu/>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
about the UNC Charlotte Gerontology Program Contact:
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**Or Visit the Gerontology Program website:
www.gerontology.uncc.edu**