

## WHAT CAN A MINOR OR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GERONTOLOGY ADD TO YOUR PUBLIC HEALTH 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 PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE?

Gerontology and public health go hand-in-hand. As we age, we encounter many health issues that are related to physiological deterioration of the body, lifestyle behaviors, ageism within the health and medical care system, and social and governmental policies that influence our access to health services. Demographically, older adults are quickly becoming the largest segment of our population; thus is it critical that public health researchers and practitioners understand the issues faced by older adults. In particular, understanding how to prevent the disability that often accompanies aging and/or chronic disease so that we can prolong functional independence and years of healthy life of older adults is a key concern for the public health field.

## WHAT UNC CHARLOTTE FACULTY SPECIALIZE IN THIS AREA AND WHAT ARE

### THEIR RESEARCH INTERESTS?

*Candace Brown, Ph.D., [cbrow342@uncc.edu](mailto:cbrow342@uncc.edu).*

Aging and motivation to exercise using mixed methodologies.

*Elena A. Platonova, Ph.D., [eplatono@uncc.edu](mailto:eplatono@uncc.edu).*

Primary health care; patient-centered medical home (PCMH); provider-patient communication; health care strategy.

*Jan Warren-Findlow, Ph.D., [jwarren1@uncc.edu](mailto:jwarren1@uncc.edu).*

Aging; health disparities; chronic illness self-care; older women's health; cardiovascular disease; illness beliefs; qualitative research methods; feminist perspective.

### WHAT ARE SOME CAREER RESOURCES BEYOND UNC Charlotte?

AARP

[www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)

American Public Health Association (APHA)

<http://www.apha.org/about/careers/>

Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education Careers in Aging

[www.careersinaging.com/careersinaging/](http://www.careersinaging.com/careersinaging/)

The Gerontological Society of America Careers in Gerontology

[www.geron.org/StudentOrg/careers.htm](http://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:**  
**Dr. Cynthia Hancock, Director**  
**at [chancock@uncc.edu](mailto:chancock@uncc.edu)**

**Or Visit the Gerontology Program website:**  
**[www.gerontology.uncc.edu](http://www.gerontology.uncc.edu)**