

## WHAT CAN A MINOR OR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GERONTOLOGY ADD TO YOUR SOCIAL WORK 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 SOCIAL WORK DEGREE?

With the dramatic growth of the aging population, social workers in all practice settings and with all age groups increasingly encounter older adults. Aging brings about physical, emotional, and social changes, challenges, and resilience that affect an older adult's quality of life. The social work profession has long recognized the need for social workers to gain a greater understanding of the complexities associated with the aging experience and how older adults adapt and respond by drawing upon their strengths and resilience. Social workers who have formal training in aging will be better prepared to provide services that effectively contribute to the well-being of older adults, their families, and their communities.

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

Othelia Lee, Ph.D., [othelia.lee@uncc.edu](mailto:othelia.lee@uncc.edu).

Life transitions, coping with visual impairment, diverse populations.

Julian Montoro-Rodriguez, Ph.D., [jmontoro@uncc.edu](mailto:jmontoro@uncc.edu)

Family Caregiving.

Lori Thomas, Ph.D., [lorithomas@uncc.edu](mailto:lorithomas@uncc.edu).

Organization and community practice in homelessness, particularly for older adults and those experiencing serious mental illness or co-occurring disorders.

## WHAT ARE SOME CAREER RESOURCES BEYOND UNC Charlotte?

AARP

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

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/>

National Association of Social Workers

<http://www.naswdc.org/PRAC/Standards>

Elderweb

<http://www.elderweb.com>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
**about the UNC Charlotte Gerontology Program Contact:**  
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**Or Visit the Gerontology Program website:**  
[www.gerontology.uncc.edu](http://www.gerontology.uncc.edu)