

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY GERONTOLOGY

Why a master's degree in Interdisciplinary Gerontology?

The Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Gerontology (MSIG) provides an interdisciplinary education in aging studies that prepares individuals for leadership roles in agencies and organizations that offer programs and services for older adults.

Why an MSIG at Bowling Green State University?

The MSIG program at BGSU is a flexible, professional degree that can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis through evening and online classes. Students are able to pursue topics of interest through coursework, papers, and a thesis or comprehensive exams in order to tailor the degree to meet personal and professional needs.

Ongoing research projects allow students to study best practice models and become part of an existing interdisciplinary team of researchers interested in aging. Consequently, they will be able to emulate these best practices when working with older adults and programs that serve an aging population.

Learning outcomes

Graduates of the MSIG program will be able to integrate concepts and theories to address gerontological research topics, demonstrating a solid background in biological, psychological, and social theory, as well as significant experience with leading edge research in adult development and aging.

They will be able to critically assess the quality of gerontology research and identify appropriate research questions and issues to improve the discipline in practical ways. Thus, program graduates will be able to apply classroom knowledge within organizations and agencies, while helping to shape policy and advocacy regarding aging related issues.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wendy Watson, MSIG Graduate Coordinator,
College of Health & Human Services, at
wwatson@bgsu.edu or call 419-372-1054.

Program strength and uniqueness

- The program can be completed on a full-time basis or part-time with classes in the evenings and online for working professionals.
- Opportunities for electives allow students to tailor the program for their own individual career goals.
- Faculty members from multiple programs on campus are involved in the MSIG program and are active in research in many areas in the field of gerontology.
- A low faculty-to-student ratio means small class sizes and individualized attention.
- The program offers a thesis option or comprehensive exams so that students may choose the path that best meets their goals.
- All undergraduate degrees may apply. You don't need a bachelor's degree in Gerontology to be successful in the MSIG program.

Professional opportunities

MSIG graduates are well prepared to work for social service and non-profit agencies such as county aging services and Area Agencies on Aging. Other professional opportunities include the areas of policy and outreach within healthcare organizations, as well as local, county and state health programs. Graduates have also pursued careers in caregiver support programs, business and marketing, exercise science, advocacy organizations, senior center administration, and hospice.



"My experience in the MSIG program has been remarkable and is the result of the incredible students and outstanding professors. The smaller program size has given me the opportunity to bond with my classmates and professors, which has created a comfortable and motivating learning environment."

— Maria D'Avella '15, MSIG Research and Teaching Assistant

Admission requirements

Applicants must hold a four-year undergraduate degree from an accredited institution. To gain regular status admission, applicants must have a minimum of a 3.0/4.0 undergraduate GPA. Applicants between 2.7 and 3.0 may be considered for conditional status, and those below 2.7 may be considered for special status. Applicants are required to submit an official transcript from all colleges and universities attended. They are also required to submit official scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) if the GPA is below 3.0 or the degree(s) earned are from outside of the U.S. The GRE is not required for graduates of U.S. colleges and universities with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

All applicants must submit a personal statement outlining past academic and/or professional experience, future career goals, and interest in interdisciplinary gerontology. Three (3) letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant's academic and professional promise are also required.

International applicants are also required to submit scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

What is the cost of tuition?

Please refer to www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar for current information on tuition and fees.

Funding options

A limited number of teaching and research assistantships and scholarships are available for full-time students who qualify. For more information, please contact the department.

Domestic students enrolled in four (4) or more credit hours are eligible to apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to calculate student contribution and financial need. You may apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

How to apply

Visit the BGSU Graduate College website at www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions.

**Application deadline (w/funding), fall term:
April 1**

**Application deadline (w/o funding), fall term:
July 1**

Curriculum

The following represents the required courses that are part of the Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Gerontology curriculum. A total of 33 credit hours of coursework at the graduate level are required.

GERONTOLOGY CORE (18 credit hours)

Gerontology (6)

- GERO 6010: Current Perspectives in Gerontology (3)
- GERO 6020: Health and Aging (3)

Human Development & Family Studies (3)

- HDFS 5290 (FCS 5800): Families in Mid-Later Life (3)

Kinesiology and Health Promotion (3)

- HMSL 6070: Aging: Physiology & Exercise (3)

Social Policy and Administration (6)

- GERO 6100: Aging Policy and Programs (3)
- GERO 6250: Administration of Aging Programs (3)

RESEARCH COURSES (9 credit hours)

Research Methods (3)

- FCS 6260 Research Methods in FCS (3) or
- GERO 6530 Research Methods in GERO (3) or
- HMSL 6530 Research Methods in HMSL (3)

Statistics (3)

- One statistics course at the graduate level (3)
(e.g., EDFI 6410 Statistics in Education; PSYC 6670 Statistical Theory I; SOC 6100 Statistical Techniques and Applications in Sociology)

Thesis or Directed Research (3)

- FCS 6990: Thesis Research in FCS or
- GERO 6900: Directed Research in GERO (3) or
- GERO 6990: Thesis Research in GERO (3) or
- HMSL 6990: Thesis Research in HMSL (3) or
- HMSL 6900: Directed Research in HMSL (3)

For the comprehensive exam option, candidates must complete a minimum of 33 semester hours of graduate credit. Students are required to pass comprehensive examinations in three areas: Health and Wellness, Programs and Administration, and a Specialization Area specific to each student.