

Program Overview

Doctoral students must take five graduate courses from the Gerontology Program, but may be required to take one or two additional courses (a total of up to seven) if deemed necessary by the Admissions Committee. Two courses will be related to Environment and Aging or Health and Aging; two will be methods/statistics courses; and one will be a required theory course. After completion of coursework, students will complete two comprehensive exams and write and defend a dissertation.

Supervisory Committee

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A supervisor will be assigned to each student upon admission. Two departmental committee members and one external member will be added to the committee by the end of the first year. At least two members will be part of the Department of Gerontology

Components of the PhD Program

Students must register for a minimum of 5 FTE (full time equivalent) semesters before they can graduate. The maximum time for completion is 8 calendar years from the date of first enrollment. However, it is expected that most students will complete their doctoral program in 3 - 4 years.

- I Course Work
- II First comprehensive exam, defended orally
- III Second comprehensive exam, defended orally
- IV Research
- V Draft of Dissertation Prospectus
- VI Oral Defence of Dissertation Prospectus
- VII Officially admitted to candidacy for the PhD
- VIII Continue Research and prepare final Dissertation
- IX Dissertation Defence
- X Final Revisions of Dissertation
- XI Submission of Completed Dissertation to Library
- XII Convocation

I COURSE WORK (Semesters 1-4)

Course work is generally completed in semesters 1-4. Note that courses are not usually offered during the summer semester. Students are advised to complete 2-3 courses in the first and second semesters. The first summer semester may be taken as on-leave or used to prepare for comprehensive exams or work on the dissertation. Students complete five to seven courses, chosen from the following:

Environment and Aging
GERO 810-4 Community Based Housing for Older People

GERO 811-4 Institutional Living Environments
GERO 822-4 Families, Communities and Health
GERO 830-4 Human Factors, Technology and Safety
Health and Aging

