



VCU Gerontology

PROGRAM CATALOG

**Flexible learning
and return on
investment**

WHAT SETS OUR
PROGRAM APART

+ ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS

2025

GERONTOLOGY.CHP.VCU.EDU



Become a **VCU** Gerontologist
Be old. Be bold. Be black and **gold**.

GERONTOLOGY.CHP.VCU.EDU



Why gerontology?

Older adults are the fastest-growing segment of the world's population — a global phenomenon that will continue in the decades to come, creating a need for gerontological training and education. Our learner-centered approach makes VCU Gerontology unlike any other master's degree program. **[Request information here.](#)**

Join the rapidly-growing field of careers in aging. With flexible options for study, scholarship opportunities and excellent tuition value, our program offers a tailored experience that works with you to achieve your dreams while you become an expert in the biological, psychological, sociological and spiritual dimensions of aging and human longevity. For a one-on-one meeting to discuss your goals, please contact **gerontology@vcu.edu**.

Apply today to get your 30-credit master's degree or 15-credit certificate. A VCU Gerontology master's degree delivers in-demand skills that align directly with today's real-world job requirements.

Did you know? We offer residency-neutral tuition. Pay the same as in-state tuition, no matter where you live.

Contact us:

gerontology@vcu.edu

Free career counseling

Request information

AGEC
ACCREDITATION FOR
GERONTOLOGY EDUCATION COUNCIL



VCU College of Health
Professions

Gerontology and the Virginia Center on Aging

Hear from alumni



MEET JANEI (VIDEO)

"You'll be accepted as an expert. You'll be accepted as an individual who can contribute to the conversation. Just being a part of the Gerontology Program, there's a presence that comes with saying that you are a graduate from this program. There's also a sense of community, amongst your colleagues, who soon become friends, and if not family. The program is phenomenal."

Janei's gerontology work featured in Style Weekly.



MEET ALEXA (VIDEO)

"My personal goals and my professional goals kind of intertwined. VCU Gerontology paved the path for me to self acceptance with aging. So I think if I just left the world in some way or another excited to grow older and seize aging as a gift, 'cause it is such a gift, that would be amazing."

Alexa's important work featured on CBS 6: **Raising your grandchild? Chesterfield Kinship Fair wants to help**

Alexa co-authored: **Benefits of an Education in Gerontology**

Alumni testimonials

"VCU Gerontology played an instrumental role in shaping my career path and approach to my work. VCU Gerontology also provided many opportunities for professional development and networking, facilitating the expansion of my professional connections. The support and understanding from faculty and peers nurtured my growth, fostering a space where I could be authentic and open. The program's focus on self-reflection and person-centeredness not only strengthened my confidence, but has enabled me to cultivate a culture of openness within my team. Even after graduation, my connection to the VCU Gerontology community remains strong, providing ongoing opportunities for learning and growth." - **Tracey**

"Earning a degree from the VCU Gerontology program is one of the best things I have ever done."
- **Malinda**

"I always draw on things I learned from VCU Gerontology. I have an advantage, because with our program we look at it from a holistic approach. We have to look at all aspects of aging. Having that mindset gives me an advantage. Having the gerontology background helps me to engage with staff and we can work together to have that person-centered interaction." - **Taneisha**



"The support and understanding from faculty and peers nurtured my growth."



Taneisha is the Administrator of Assisted Living and Memory Support at Goodwin House in Northern Virginia.



THERE IS NO GERONTOLOGIST
LIKE A VCU GERONTOLOGIST

VCU Gerontology Master's Degree

Students learn the biological, psychological and sociological underpinnings of aging. Through a lifespan biopsychosocialspiritual approach, students gain understanding of empirically and theoretically based components contributing to optimal quality of life and performance in late life as well as knowledge and skills in best practices to promote optimal aging across the life span.

VCU Gerontology has a strong commitment to viewing aging as a lifespan journey toward elderhood, with a focus on disrupting ageism to work toward a more just and equitable world.

A list of Gerontology courses can be found in the [VCU Bulletin](#).



You should know

Our students get jobs!

We connect students with employers throughout their program.

You can complete the program at your own pace as either a full-time or part-time student.



Careers & job skills

REAL WORLD JOB REQUIREMENTS
+YOUR COMPETITIVE EDGE

You can customize your experience at VCU Gerontology. All of our students gain these key skills:

- Ethical leadership
- Design programs that improve services
- Interpersonal effectiveness
- Learn to incorporate community input into planning and outreach efforts
- Advocacy
- Evaluate issues, synthesize research and draw valid conclusions that inform practice and innovation

And more.



ASSISTED LIVING ADMINISTRATION

100% JOB PLACEMENT

Concentrations

Master's students can customize the study of gerontology with experience in other fields such as business, engineering, wellness, finance, the humanities and more. Popular certifications offered by VCU Gerontology include geriatric care management and assisted living administration.

Assisted Living Administrator Concentration

Leadership of assisted living communities requires administrators to exhibit both technical expertise and a compassionate approach to delivering high quality services and support to residents, families and employees. Evidence from the field highlights assisted living administration as a career with a growing demand, high job satisfaction and many high-paying opportunities.



At VCU Gerontology, students learn from faculty licensed & experienced in assisted living administration. We presently have a **100% pass rate** on the national licensing exam and **100% job placement**.

Did you know? VCU's M.S. in gerontology with the assisted living administration specialty area is the **only** National Association of Long Term Care Administrator Boards-accredited program in Virginia and offers the only Residential Care/Assisted Living Exam Preparation Course.



Geriatric Care Managers perform deeply meaningful work that requires a specific expertise.



Geriatric Care Manager Concentration

Industry and labor experts have known for decades that there is an urgent, growing need for more Geriatric Care Managers. Within this rapidly growing field, these professionals play a crucial role for families and individuals during important life moments that impact health, care and wellbeing.

GCMs perform deeply meaningful work that requires a specific expertise. A rewarding career with flexible options for employment, GCMs make an indelible mark on the families and individuals they help.

[Learn more here.](#)



Find your unique path in this rapidly growing career field. Our faculty will guide you every step of the way.

A VCU Gerontology degree provides real world learning that furthers discovery and innovation to prepare students to improve the quality of human life. VCU Gerontology is designed to equip learners in a wide variety of fields in order to solve society's challenges and leverage the opportunities of the major demographic shifts our world is undergoing.

VCU Gerontologists become experts in aging and later life and their skills are highly needed, leading to career growth, stability and security.

- [Exploring Careers in Aging](#)
- [American Psychological Association Roadmap](#)
- [APA Interdisciplinary Careers in Aging](#)
- [APA Career Resources](#)
- [UMBC Careers in Aging Map](#)

[Learn more about careers](#)
[Connect with a career counselor](#) - no cost

OUR LEARNER-CENTERED APPROACH CONNECTS STUDENTS AND ALUM WITH SATISFYING CAREERS.



Admissions

GRADUATE APPLICATION

Application Deadlines

- Fall Semester: May 1 (April 15 is the priority deadline*)
- Spring Semester: November 1 (October 15 is the priority deadline*)
- Summer Semester: March 1

*Prospective students who submit by the priority date will be given priority consideration.

[More admissions information can be found here.](#)

VISIT US ONLINE

Learn more about our programs and contact us for a one-to-one meeting.



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