2013 UNDERGRADUATE ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE UCLA GERONTOLOGY INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR (GIM)

The UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs' Department of Social Welfare, in collaboration with the School of Medicine Division of Geriatrics and the School of Public Health, announces the addition of the Gerontology Interdisciplinary Minor (GIM).

As of Winter quarter 2012, undergraduate students may enroll to the interdisciplinary GIM, which utilizes UCLA's professional schools and College resources to create an enhanced academic experience in aging.

The restructured GIM will provide UCLA students the following:

- A foundation understanding of the current state of the science related to the biopsychosocial aspects of human aging;
- an ability to assess longevity's potential contribution and challenge to contemporary society;
- an appreciation of the diversity of aging over the life course and its impact on late life outcomes; and
- the opportunity to relate knowledge of gerontology to life-long personal and professional contributions to a diverse aging society.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why would I want to minor in gerontology?

Gerontology is something we are all "growing into," if we are fortunate! We are ALL aging every day since birth. However, just in the past century the numbers of us reaching "old age" has become so common that our society—our planet—is experiencing an unprecedented global aging revolution. Individuals must learn how to age well, and society must take an organized approach to helping its members do so at all ages but especially among adults over the age of 65 years. This age segment of the population is incredibly diverse and will require much creativity in addressing its wide range of needs. By joining the GIM, you will learn the fundamentals about aging at all levels of society, over historical periods of time, across societal strata, and from biological, psychological, and social/policy aspects. This knowledge will buttress any undergraduate major with information and experience that will stay with you for a lifetime. Careers in aging are a growing demand, and the GIM will contribute to your preparation for these opportunities.

What is the Gerontology Interdisciplinary Minor (GIM)?

The GIM consists of seven interdisciplinary courses equaling 28 units in total. These courses address the biological, psychological, and social/policy aspects of aging over the life course. A <u>new</u> core 5-unit course is the foundation for the GIM. Students select four electives from a host of interdisciplinary courses in the College of Letters and Science, the School of Public Health, and the School of Public Affairs, Department of Social Welfare. The two remaining courses may be composed of a 199 research internship with a faculty member of the student's choice and a 195 corporate or community internship. Alternatively, students may elect to do two 199 or two 195 courses to fulfill these eight units.

Where can I get the most current updates about the GIM?

Twitter@UCLAGIM: <u>https://twitter.com/#!/UCLAGIM</u> Facebook GIM group: <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/107189279401437/</u> Luskin School of Public Affairs: <u>http://publicaffairs.ucla.edu/content/undergraduate-programs</u> Geffen School of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics' GeroNet: <u>http://www.geronet.ucla.edu/</u>

Is the GIM open to any undergraduate major?

Yes, from basic to social sciences and humanities.

May I enroll now?

Yes. Please contact the lead faculty member, Dr. Lené Levy-Storms, via email: <u>llstorms@ucla.edu</u> or phone: 310 825 7388 or Stan Paul, the GIM advisor in the Luskin School of Public Affairs, via email: <u>paul@publicaffairs.ucla.edu</u> or phone: 310-206-8966.

Are there prerequisites to GIM?

Yes. You need to take the GIM core course, Social Welfare/Gerontology CM108, and earn a grade of B or better as well as have an overall grade-point average of 2.0 or better. If you are or have been a freshman GE Aging Cluster 80A student and earned a grade of B or better in as well as have an overall grade-point average of 2.0 or better, you do not have to take CM108.

How many units are required to complete the GIM? 28 units

What careers in gerontology are available?

Physicians, lawyers, nurses, social workers, scientists, teachers, policymakers, administrators—basically any occupation has or will soon have a role for a gerontology expert.

May I enroll in Service Learning courses or practicums as part of the GIM?

Yes. You may take a 199 (Research Internship) or a 195 (corporate or community internship).

Can I petition for an elective substitution to GIM?

Yes. It is possible that any course at UCLA may be tailored via its assignments to provide enough substance in aging to qualify as an elective. Please contact Stan Paul, the GIM advisor in the Luskin School of Public Affairs, via email: <u>paul@publicaffairs.ucla.edu</u> or phone: <u>310-206-8966</u> or the lead faculty member, Dr. Lené Levy-Storms, to discuss this possibility via email: <u>llstorms@ucla.edu</u> or phone: <u>310 825 7388</u>.

Are units from other institutions transferrable towards completion of the GIM?

Yes. Please contact Stan Paul, the GIM advisor in the Luskin School of Public Affairs, via email: paul@publicaffairs.ucla.edu or phone: 310-206-8966.

When are courses offered?

Variable for elective courses but the GIM core course will be offered annually.

What elective courses are offered in general?

Discipline Base for Course	Units
Public Health	
COM HLT 283. Evidence-Based Health Promotion Programs for Older Adults	4
COM HLT 290. Race, Class, Culture, and Aging.	4
COM HLT 291. Health Policy and Aged.	4
Psychology	
PSYCH 124C. Human Memory	4
PSYCH 150. Introduction to Health Psychology	4
Interdepartmental Base/Cross-listed	
M165. Disability Policy and Services in Contemporary America.	4
M142SL. Intergenerational Communication across Lifespan.	4
M119X. Biology and Behavioral Neuroscience of Aging.	4
M119O. Psychology of Aging.	4
M104D. Public Policy and Aging	4
M104C. Diversity in Aging: Roles of Gender and Ethnicity.	4

