

Gerontology - Aging Services Professional

10-544-1 Associate Degree (two-year)

Financial Aid Eligible

Program Overview

The Gerontology-Aging Services Professional program is designed to meet the emerging and rapidly growing demand for service providers needed to work with the aging population. Students will acquire comprehensive and interdisciplinary training to prepare them to work with older adults in a variety of positions and in diverse settings such as; community, non-profit and government agencies, counseling centers, adult care, memory care, senior centers, home health care, assisted living, long-term care, nursing homes, group homes, hospitals, hospice, and business and industry. This innovative and flexible program blends online and in-person synchronous learning with community-based fieldwork and is designed to fit into busy life schedules. Students can choose part-time or full-time program options and mix and match coursework. It is ideal for people entering the job market or choosing to enhance their current careers in service delivery or leadership roles within the gerontology field. Graduates will be added to the Wisconsin Community-Based Residential Facility (CBRF) Employee Registry and will receive the American Red Cross First Aid Basic with Choking Certification of Completion.

Campus:

Ashland
New Richmond
Rice Lake
Superior



WISCONSIN
INDIANHEAD
TECHNICAL
COLLEGE

Special Features

- Flexible course selection and scheduling designed to assist with life planning
- 8 week rotating block courses offered in online and in-person evening formats
- Part-time and full-time program options with flexible entry and exit
- Ideal for people entering the job market or choosing to enhance their current careers in service delivery or leadership roles within the gerontology field
- Graduates will be added to the Wisconsin Community-Based Residential Facility (CBRF) Employee Registry and will receive the American Red Cross First Aid Basic with Choking Certification of Completion

Admission Requirements

Students in this program must:

- Complete application form and submit with fee (fee waiver may apply if previously submitted)
- Complete Accuplacer entrance assessment to determine placement (waiver may apply with acceptable alternative test scores and/or postsecondary degree completion)
- Review and sign the Functional Ability Statement of Understanding
- Review and sign Caregiver Background Check and/or Criminal History Record Check Statement of Understanding
- Complete admissions meeting with a WITC counselor (above requirements should be completed prior to meeting)

Program-Specific Requirement

Students in this program must:

- Complete and sign Background Information Disclosure Form (BID)
- Submit Background Check fee

- Have an acceptable Wisconsin Caregiver Background Check or Minnesota Caregiver Background Check as applicable - Information from the Caregiver Background Check may affect ability to secure fieldwork placement and the ability to find employment after graduation

Program Outcomes

Employers will expect Gerontology - Aging Services Professional graduates to be able to:

- Evaluate the physical, social, psychological, and spiritual aspects of aging throughout the lifespan
 - Exhibit ethical and legal practice consistent with a gerontology professional
 - Distinguish the role of the gerontology professional in the coordination of service delivery
 - Cultivate an age-friendly community
- Employability essentials and indicators will also be addressed to develop personal awareness, career effectiveness, and professionalism. See page 5 of the college catalog for a list of employability essentials and indicators.

Career Outlook

Gerontology - Aging Services Professional program graduates will be well prepared to use their knowledge, skills and abilities working with older adults in a variety of positions in diverse settings such as:

- Community, Non-Profit and Government Agencies
- Counseling Centers
- Adult Care
- Senior Centers
- Home Health Care and Assisted Living
- Long-term Care, Nursing Homes and Group Homes

- Hospitals
- Hospice
- Business and Industry

Potential Job Titles:

- Aging Services Provider
- Advocacy Specialist
- Geriatric Care Specialist
- Dementia Care Specialist/Provider
- Benefits Coordinator
- Client Navigation Specialist
- Activity/Recreation Coordinator
- Housing/Transportation Specialist
- Program Planner
- Private Service Provider/Small Business Owner

Curriculum (Revised 4/18/17)

Number	Course Title	Credits
Technical Studies Courses		
10501109	Healthcare Computing	2
10520103	Ethics in Human Services ▲ *	3
10520112	Family Systems	3
10544100	Communication of Aging	3
10544101	Social Gerontology	3
10544102	Psychological Aspects of Aging	3
10544103	Gerontology Fieldwork 1 ▲ *	2
10544104	Physical Aspects of Aging	3
10544105	Alzheimer's and Dementia	3
10544106	Healthy Aging	3
10544107	Death and Dying	3
10544108	Developing the Gerontology Professional ▲ *	3
10544109	Gerontology Fieldwork 2 ▲ *	2
10544110	Programs of Aging Services	3
10544111	Legal and Financial Issues of Aging	3
10575100	CBRF Caregiver Fundamentals	2
		44

General Studies Courses[†]

10801136	English Composition 1 ▲	3
10801198	Speech or	3
10801196	Oral/Interpersonal Communication	
10804123	Math with Business Applications ▲ or	3
10804134	Mathematical Reasoning ▲ or	
10804189	Introductory Statistics ▲	
10806198	Human Biology or	4
10806177	General Anatomy and Physiology ▲	
10809159	Abnormal Psychology ▲	3
10809172	Introduction to Diversity Studies	3
10809198	Introduction to Psychology	22

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

66

▲ Requires a prerequisite and/or corequisite that must be completed with a grade point of 2.0 or better.

† See pages 41-43 for course descriptions.

* Credit for prior learning not applicable for these courses.

Students must earn a grade point of 2.0 or better in all 105XXXXX courses.

Go to witc.edu for most current information.

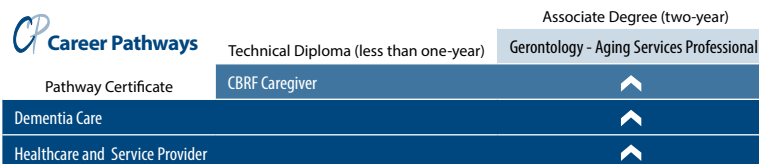
Career Pathway Options

Career Pathways connect progressive levels of coursework to allow students to build upon their education. Each step in the pathway connects with employment options and provides the opportunity for advancement to higher levels. The Gerontology - Aging Services Professional program includes the following pathway options:

- 30-544-2 Community-Based Residential Facility (CBRF) Caregiver Technical Diploma (Page 74)
- 61-544-2 Dementia Care Pathway Certificate (Page 193)
- 61-544-1 Healthcare and Service Provider Pathway Certificate (page 196)

Other programs related to this career pathway include:

Nursing - Associate Degree, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Medical Assistant, Paramedic Technician, EMT - Paramedic, Nursing Assistant, and Human Services Associate



Course Descriptions

(See pages 41–43 for General Studies course descriptions)

10501109

Healthcare Computing - Credits: 2

This course provides an introduction to basic computer applications used in healthcare settings, including common software packages, operating systems, file management, word processing, spreadsheets, databases, the Internet and e-mail. Students are introduced to the hardware and software components of computer systems and electronic medical records.

10520103

Ethics in Human Services - Credits: 3

This course explores the ethical, legal, and professional issues facing the human services worker. It is designed to teach a process of ethical decision-making and to increase awareness of the complexities in practice. Students are introduced to the current state and federal statutes, regulations, and judicial decisions that govern the professional practice in human services. Standards, code of ethics, clients' rights, and confidentiality are emphasized. PREREQUISITE: Established score on Reading placement assessment or COREQUISITE: 10838104 Introduction to Reading.

10520112

Family Systems - Credits: 3

This course focuses on issues related to families and family functioning relevant to the human services field. Major areas of focus will include child maltreatment, domestic violence, and addiction, with emphasis on relevant helping skills and services.

10544100

Communication of Aging - Credits: 3

Develop effective communication strategies and supportive interview techniques that enhance rapport and relationships with aging populations. Apply ethical principles, standards and boundaries that acknowledge self-determination.

10544101

Social Gerontology - Credits: 3

Explore aging in respect to social roles and processes. Topics include history of aging, demographics, family relationships, social supports, economics, retirement, loss, poverty and politics of aging.

10544102

Psychological Aspects of Aging - Credits: 3

Recognize how experience and history affect the value and societal expectations of each generation. Understand diversity among older adults including, but not limited to, race; ethnicity; culture; sexual orientation; and physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities.

10544103

Gerontology Fieldwork 1 - Credits: 2

Examine the scope, values, and principles of the gerontology profession. Coursework introduces the typical roles and duties of aging services professionals. Students assess their own motivations, attitudes, and interests. In addition to the regular classroom hours, observation and fieldwork in a community-based setting working with older adults is required. Students must complete or have on file current, valid Background Information Disclosure (BID) and Caregiver Background Check (annual Wisconsin and Minnesota) forms, as part of this course. PREREQUISITE: 10544108 Developing the Gerontology Professional.

10544104

Physical Aspects of Aging - Credits: 3

Analyze normal and pathological changes occurring in the aging human body with special emphasis on age-related chronic diseases. Topics addressed include analysis of biological theories of aging, cultural/ ethnic influence on aging pathologies, and other factors impacting the aging process.

10544105

Alzheimer's and Dementia - Credits: 3

Examine the signs, symptoms and stages of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia and how these diseases affect physiology and brain function. This course focuses on the principles of communicating and providing care to individuals with memory loss and confusion while learning the best practices for dealing with behavior changes, challenges with the activities of daily living, and strategies to assist caregivers.

10544106

Healthy Aging - Credits: 3

Investigate practices that promote healthy aging including nutrition, physical activity, prevention practices, and commonly prescribed medications for the older adult. Emphasis will focus on the "well" elderly population and practices identified to address current aging trends.

10544107

Death and Dying - Credits: 3

Explore societal, cultural, and personal views of death, dying, and bereavement. Examine losses experienced during the course of aging beyond the physical and emotional process of death and dying. Determine strategies for healthy transitions in coping with loss.

10544108

Developing the Gerontology Professional - Credits: 3

Examine the various roles of the aging services professional and the contexts in which they work. Apply relationship building, communication, ethical standards, self-care planning and practices, documentation, and other related skills to case studies and real life situations. Function as an interdisciplinary team member addressing the complex needs of aging adults. PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of 15 credits of 105201XX or 105441XX coursework.

10544109

Gerontology Fieldwork 2 - Credits: 2

Refine and expand skills, acquired in Gerontology Fieldwork 1, through continued on-the-job training. In addition to the regular classroom hours, fieldwork in a community-based setting working with older adults is required. Students must complete or have on file current, valid Background Information Disclosure (BID) and Caregiver Background Check (annual Wisconsin and Minnesota) forms, as part of this course. COREQUISITE: 10544103 Gerontology Fieldwork 1 and successful completion or co-enrollment in all other core program courses.

10544110

Programs of Aging Services - Credits: 3

Explore the wide spectrum of programs and services available to older adults that address a variety of physical, mental, emotional, social, financial, legal, spiritual, and recreational needs. Examine social policy as it relates to aging and available federal funding for the aging consumer including community resources, eligibility criteria, and how to access and coordinate services. Additional topics include supplementing social networking and enhancing mental health functioning.

10544111

Legal and Financial Issues of Aging - Credits: 3

Analyze legal and financial concepts and structures including Power of Attorney for health care/finance, guardianships, trusts, reallocation of assets, spending down, Medicare/Medicaid benefits, supplemental insurance, Social Security, elder abuse/neglect, financial exploitation, and relevant governmental policies. Apply knowledge through advocacy to benefit aging adults on local, state and federal levels.

10575100

CBRF Caregiver Fundamentals - Credits: 2

In this credit-based course, students will obtain the knowledge and skills required to become Community-Based Residential Facility (CBRF) caregivers. Coursework will include the following training modules: DHS 83.20 (2) (b) CBRF Fire Safety, DHS 83.20 (2) (d) CBRF Medication Administration and Management, DHS 83.20 (2) (a) CBRF Standard Precautions, DHS 83.20 (2) (c) CBRF First Aid and Choking, DHS 83.21 (1) CBRF Resident's Rights, and DHS 83.21 (3) CBRF Challenging Behaviors. Upon successful completion of this course, students are added to the Wisconsin CBRF Employee Registry and will receive the American Red Cross First Aid Basic with Choking Certification of Completion.



ACT for Healthcare Project Funding

This ACT program is 100% funded with a TAACCCT Round IV \$19.9 million grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. This is an equal opportunity employer/program which provides auxiliary aids and services upon request to individuals with disabilities by calling 711 or 800.243.9482 Voice/TTY. WITC is an Equal Opportunity/Access Employer and Educator. This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

Graduate Employment Information

(WITC Graduate Survey Responses 2014–2015; for most recent data, go to witic.edu)

The information below is based on graduates' responses from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and Mid-State Technical College and does not include WITC graduates as this is a new program at WITC.

Number of graduates	13	Number employed	4	% employed in WITC district	N/A
Number of responses	7	Percent employed	67%	Range of yearly salary	\$28,078–\$37,437
Number available for employment	6	Employed in related field	3	Average yearly salary	\$31,657