

UF

Department of Aging
and Geriatric Research

College of Medicine

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Discover
CAREERS IN AGING

online.aging.ufl.edu



What are the Differences Between Aging, Gerontology, and Geriatrics?

Aging is a multidisciplinary field. The study of aging integrates practices and knowledge from several areas of study, including biology, sociology, and psychology. Other fields of study important to aging are public policy, humanities, social sciences, and economics. Gerontology and geriatrics fall under the study of aging.

Gerontology is the study of the aging process for individuals from middle age to later life. It includes:

- The study of physical, mental, and social changes through the aging process
- The effect of an aging population on society
- The application of knowledge toward policies and program

Geriatrics is the study of the medical aspects of aging. It includes:

- The focus on health and disease in the elderly populations
- The administration of health care to older persons
- The considerations for the welfare of informal caregivers

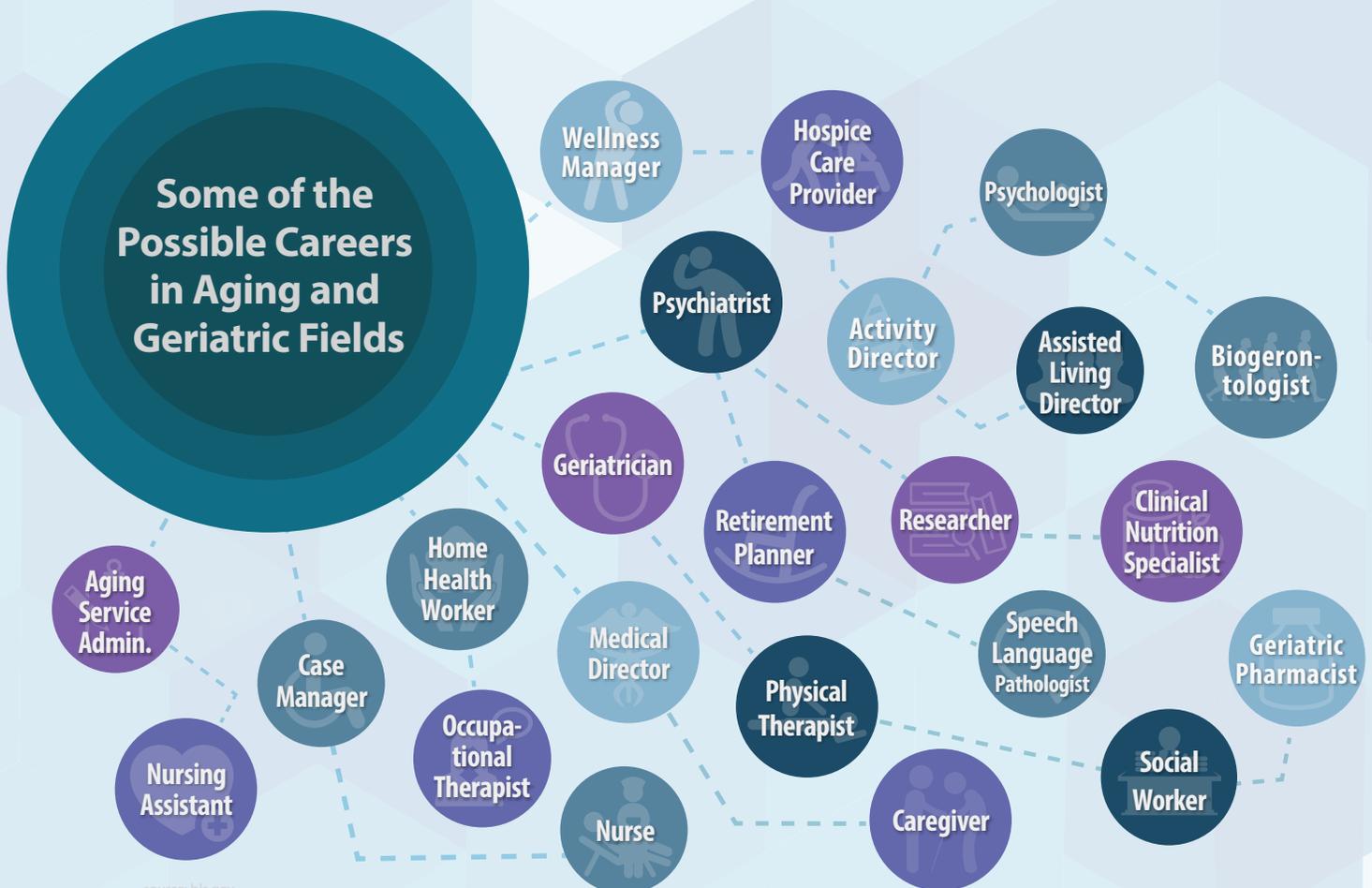
What Career Opportunities Are Available?

Professionals in the field of aging work in a variety of settings, including community and service organizations, long-term care institutions, hospitals, governmental agencies, academic settings, and research organizations.

Some professionals work directly with older adults, while others work as educators and researchers in the field of aging. They can be focused strictly to aging studies or divided between aging and other interests in disciplinary, professional, or clinical areas.

Career activities may include:

- Developing programs for health promotion, intergenerational activities, and leisure for older adults
- Providing direct care to frail, ill, or impaired older adults in hospitals, nursing homes, or at home
- Conducting research on the aging process and various diseases associated with aging
- Planning, executing, and evaluating community-based services for older adults
- Advocating with or on behalf of older adults before legislative bodies or in institutional settings
- Advising business, industry, and labor regarding older workers and consumers
- Assessing psychological and clinical needs



Find the Perfect Career for You

There are numerous benefits to working in the field of aging, including a growing need for professionals, a variety of challenging work environments, multidisciplinary opportunities, and a chance to make a difference in the lives of the elderly, no matter the career path you choose.



By the middle of the 21st century, 1 in 5 Americans will be over 65 and there will be 15-18 million people over the age of 85.



source: bls.gov

Expanding Career Opportunities

With a worldwide aging population, there are ample opportunities for work in the field.

The world needs professionals who are well-versed in both gerontology and geriatrics.

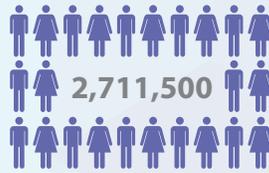


Stimulating and Challenging Work Environments

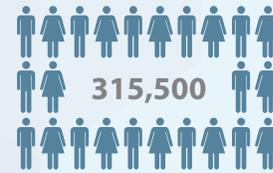
Aging is a diverse field, offering many different employment opportunities. The experiences, needs, resources, and abilities are different for the elderly depending on gender, race, income, and health.

Job Outlook for Aging and Geriatric Specialists

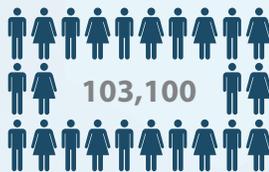
Annual job opportunities in aging and geriatric fields:



Registered Nurses



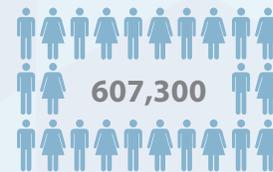
Health Service Managers



Gerontologists



Recreational Therapists



Social Workers

source: bls.gov

Working with the Active Elderly Versus the Inactive Elderly

Active Elder Care Career Opportunities:

- Organizing recreation and leisure programs
- Managing volunteer activities
- Providing educational opportunities to the elderly

Inactive Elder Care Career Opportunities:

- Administering long-term health care
- Creating rehabilitation and care programs
- Managing the health of larger elderly populations

Multidisciplinary Opportunities

The varied needs of older persons lead to exciting opportunities for working side-by-side with professionals from other disciplines.



Service Provider

Coordinate between housing agencies, lawyers, transportation providers, nurses, and family counselors.



Educator

Educate college students interested in the field or older adults who are preparing for retirement.



Health Professional

Serve on a health care team to administer hospital care, daycare, or home care to older persons.



Researcher

Study relationships between the strength of social networks and life satisfaction among older adults or treatments for geriatric diseases.



source: bls.gov

Job Outlook for Aging and Geriatric Specialists

Job outlook % increase over the next decade:

Opportunities to Make a Difference

People working in aging report great satisfaction in addressing the challenges of those who are growing older. Aging professionals help maintain the quality of life for aging people, and enjoying first-hand experience of the wit, wisdom, and creativity of the older persons they serve.

Online Graduate Degree in Gerontology from UF

The University of Florida offers an entirely online master's degree and graduate certificate in gerontology. Learn necessary skills to advance your career in the field of aging, including the areas of administration and research. **No clinical experience is required** to apply.

- Earn your master's degree or graduate certificate on your own time, taking as little as one class per semester.
- Keep your current job while you prepare for your future career, with asynchronous courses and flexible schedules.
- Tuition is the same competitive price for all students, no matter where you live.
- You are not required to visit the University of Florida to complete your degree.

If you earn a master's degree, you may also choose one of the following three specializations to further personalize your education:

- Geriatric Care Management: This track prepares students to apply health, social, and psychological approaches to foster better outcomes and independence for patients.
- Gero Nursing: This track focuses on the application of nursing in a direct elder care settings and the benchmarks of success in nursing systems.
- Geropsychology: This track teaches students how to care for the mental health of seniors, including normal cognitive behavior and age-related diseases like dementia.

Job Outlook for Aging and Geriatric Specialists

Annual median pay in the aging and geriatric job market:

source: bls.gov



Application Requirements

Master of Science in Gerontology

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Upper-division GPA of 3.0 or higher
- GRE scores
- Two letters of recommendation
- Resume or CV
- Statement of Purpose

Graduate Certificate in Aging and Geriatric Practice

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Upper-division GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Resume or CV

For more information about applying to the University of Florida's online graduate program in gerontology, visit online.aging.ufl.edu/apply/admissions.

Questions about the program? Contact Student Support Services at 844-707-7988.



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The Department of Aging and Geriatric Research

Our professors are based out of the Department of Aging and Geriatric Research at the University of Florida. The online courses are taught by experienced researchers and medical professionals, which gives students hands-on knowledge in the field of aging. The department also supports the Institute on Aging, a center that focuses on the treatment of the aging population.

