

Honors Certificate in Geriatrics

Introduction

The Honors Certificate in Geriatrics recognizes excellence in the field of geriatrics achieved by students throughout their undergraduate medical education. This honors track includes a choice of activities extending across the four-year curriculum and the medical school geriatric faculty enthusiastically supports those students who wish to obtain the certificate. To enroll in this program, please contact Dr. Sara Jane Andersen or Dr. Mark Supiano (AB 193 SOM; 801.587.9103) to discuss your plans for completion of the requirements discussed below.

The Certificate will be awarded to students who complete **ONE of the TWO core** experiences and **THREE additional experiences** listed below in Section B.

A. Completion of ONE of the following TWO core experiences is required:

1. Enrollment and completion of requirements for the University of Utah Graduate Certificate in Gerontology (see Appendix A). This is accomplished during the course INTMD 7035, a four-week, fourth-year elective.
2. Completion of a summer research experience in aging supported by MSTAR (Medical Student Training in Aging Research) or the SOM student research program. Contact Dr. Mark Supiano (mark.supiano@hsc.utah.edu) to discuss potential mentors and projects. A description of the MSTAR program can be found at www.afar.org/medstu.html.

B. Completion of THREE of the following FIVE additional experiences is required:

1. Completion of four written assignments submitted to and discussed with Therese Jones, PhD, Associate Professor in the Division of Medical Ethics and Humanities. The assignments may include: a reflective essay on the illness experience; a critical incident report in which the student-writer describes a clinical scenario; a "parallel chart" of a patient whom the student is following; and a description of understanding and communicating advance directives. Please make an appointment with Dr. Jones, (therese.jones@hsc.utah.edu, AB 193 SOM; 801.585.5925) before beginning this project.
2. Participation in the School of Medicine's chapter of the American Geriatrics Society Student Interest Group, including attendance at meetings and completion of service projects. For more information, link to the interest group web site <http://gmiq.blogspot.com> or contact Denise Brooks in the Division of Geriatrics (denise.brooks@hsc.utah.edu, AB193 SOM; 801.213.2945.)
3. Completion of the fourth year Humanities elective INTMD 7992 "How To Be Old: Literature, Film, and Aging" (see Appendix B).
Course director: Therese Jones, PhD (therese.jones@hsc.utah.edu)
4. Award of "honors" in the Geriatric Sophomore Organ Systems course. This is accomplished by 1) a passing score and 2) completion of a four- to five-page, properly referenced didactic paper on a geriatric subject identified by the student and approved by the course director.
Course director: Sara Jane Andersen, MD (sarajane.andersen@hsc.utah.edu)

5. Attendance at the Interdisciplinary Seminar Series on Aging (Geron 6960-002) course. This series consists of 13 weekly seminars covering a variety of aging topics (see Appendix C).

Course director: Scott Wright PhD (scott.wright@hsc.utah.edu).

- Additional elective projects can be substituted after discussion with Dr. Supiano or Dr. Andersen.

After satisfactory completion of medical school and of the above requirements, an Honors Certificate in Geriatrics will be awarded.

APPENDIX A

Fourth-Year Geriatrics Elective-INTMD 7035 Graduate Certificate in Gerontology

Introduction

A Graduate Certificate in Gerontology is awarded to fourth-year medical students who complete an intensive four-week rotation (“Gerontology Immersion”) that combines both didactic and clinical educational experiences. The modified curriculum structure is offered to create an opportunity for medical students who have an interest in a geriatrics specialty to achieve a university-conferred certificate in gerontology. In addition, the Gerontology Immersion helps to broaden and expand medical students’ interdisciplinary training.

This online course will examine the developmental and interactional transitions associated with the aging individual using an ecological conceptual model. Topics will be analyzed from a multi-disciplinary perspective.

Course Objectives

1. to develop an appreciation and understanding of an ecological conceptual model as it applies to the aging individual and in the practice of geriatrics
2. to understand how aging transitions and intergenerational issues and various contexts are interconnected
3. to apply course concepts to two term projects:
 - a. an older consultant case study
 - b. a project relating to the ecological model
4. to develop and appreciate the interdisciplinary nature of the field of gerontology

For more information, contact the course director, Scott Wright, PhD (scott.wright@hsc.utah.edu) or 801.585.9542.

Appendix B

“How To Be Old: Literature, Film, and Aging,” Therese Jones, PhD

(See senior elective catalogue for session dates.)

What does it mean to age, to become old? What happens to our *self* as our body begins to outlive its usefulness? What becomes of the person we once were, knowing that we simultaneously exist as a being in the process of becoming? Gerontology, the study of the aging process, and geriatrics, the branch of medicine which focuses on the prevention and treatment of disease and disability in later life, can provide some of the theoretical and clinical answers to these questions, but stories—in word and image—can provide different ways of understanding aging, one of the most mysterious and inevitable shared human experiences.

This course explores the experience of aging from the many different perspectives of fiction, poetry, drama and film—examining not only the experiences of aging people but also those of their spouses, families, friends and caregivers. It is organized in four sections: aging and the individual; aging and love; aging and the family; aging and the community. Materials include such films as *Harold and Maude*, *The Gin Game* and *Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter*, literary selections include Shakespeare’s *King Lear*, short fiction and poetry.

For more information, contact the course director, Therese Jones, PhD (therese.jones@hsc.utah.edu or 801.585.5925).