Cultivating the knowledge for global change...one community at a time.
Prospective Students,

Thank you for your interest in the Department of Gerontology at San Diego State University. The Master of Science in Gerontology program offers education and research programs guided by a team of administrators and faculty members who are noted experts in their area of research. The Department of Gerontology has a commitment to international and multicultural education.

The Department of Gerontology is part of the School of Social Work at SDSU. The School of Social Work was founded in 1963 and has been continuously accredited by the Council of Social Work Education since 1966. The Gerontology Department became part of the School of Social Work in 2011. Gerontology is a field of academics and professionals dedicated to understanding the unique needs of older adults and their families. Gerontologists explore the physical, mental, and social changes older individuals experience as they age. They also work to understand the mutual impact between society and older persons and what programs and services are available to this group. Ultimately, gerontologists assist older persons to make the most of their life either by making lifestyle changes or exploring their potential and creativity.

The MS Gerontology Program focuses on administration and policy. This prepares students to increase public awareness about the needs and services for older adults; conduct analyses of current and proposed programs; design the structure of program staffing and services; motivate and supervise them; allocate, monitor and modify organizational resources; and coordinate activities within/outside an organization.

In addition to the Masters of Science in Gerontology (MS), the School of Social Work offers a variety of degree programs with various specializations and concentrations including a Minor in Social Work, Minor in Gerontology, Bachelor of Arts in Gerontology (BA), Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW), Masters in Social Work (MSW), Masters in Social Work and Masters in Public Health (MSW/MPH), Masters in Social Work and Juris Doctor Degree (MSW/JD).

MISSION STATEMENT

The primary goal of the Gerontology Graduate Program is to offer high-quality interdisciplinary education and training that focus on the core areas of gerontology such as theories of aging, aging policy, long-term care, research methodology, design, development, administration, and evaluation of programs for the aged. The Master of Science degree in gerontology is supported by interdisciplinary faculty from several departments. The program is administered by the School of Social Work. The program is committed to preparing students to enter positions in administration and management in a variety of organizations serving older adults. This goal will be accomplished by offering coursework and a field experience aimed at providing the necessary knowledge and skills to encourage/promote gerontology competencies and evidence-based administration and management as related to older adults.
PROGRAM GOALS

1. Provide advanced education and training in gerontology in order to become administrators of state and federal programs; work in settings such as senior centers; senior service organizations; area and state agencies on aging; supportive senior housing; public, non-profit, and corporate settings; and long term care facilities.

2. Deliver high-quality academic programs that provide students with knowledge and skills in planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating innovative programs to meet the needs of older persons.

3. Provide professional field experiences in gerontology in order to enhance understanding of concepts, themes, and skills related to aging.

4. Enhance cultural competence regarding age, gender, race and ethnicity, and/or diverse abilities.

5. Prepare students for evidence-driven practice with older adults by applying appropriate research methods to develop, implement, and evaluate programs and services.

6. Explore aging-related professional values and ethics for sound professional judgment based on high ethical standards and expectations.
Did you know?

- San Diego State University (SDSU) was established in 1897 and is a comprehensive university that has been classified as a Doctoral/Research University - Intensive by the Carnegie Foundation.
- SDSU is the second largest of 23 campuses in the California State University system and is one of the largest Universities in the Western United States (5th largest in California).
- San Diego State has a diverse student body of about 37,000. The main campus is situated on 283 acres atop a mesa in San Diego.
- The architectural richness of the campus reflects a combination of historical “mission” theme and contemporary design. For more information about SDSU visit www.sdsu.edu

A NATIONAL REPUTATION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

SDSU, designated a “Doctoral/Research University-Intensive” by the Carnegie Foundation, is ranked among the top 7.2 percent of higher education institutions in the United States. As you pursue your master’s degree in one of 76 areas, you will learn from distinguished faculty, engaged in teaching and research.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

During fiscal year 2011-2012, faculty members were awarded $127 million in grants and contracts for approximately 1,500 projects. SDSU’s teacher-scholar model ensures that you receive instruction from and collaborate on research projects with top faculty. Furthermore, our interesting geographic location, cosmopolitan context and widely diverse population provide unique opportunities for fieldwork and applied inquiry.

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY: AN INTERNATIONAL HUB

Known for its near-perfect climate, 70 miles of beaches, 93 golf courses, the world famous San Diego Zoo and Sea World, and breathtaking deserts to explore, San Diego is also recognized globally as a growing academic and research Mecca. San Diego’s geographic location and diverse population help make the area a dynamic international hub.
Fall Admissions Process

Criteria for Admission to MS Gerontology Program

• Hold a Bachelors degree with liberal arts foundation (UC and CSU systems automatically meet this).
• Minimum GPA of 3.0 for the last 60 units completed and a 2.85 overall GPA.

You will submit two separate applications as follows:

1. SDSU Graduate Admissions

Complete the application found at http://www.csumentor.edu/ (October 1–March 1).

After your application is submitted, ensure that your transcripts and GRE/TOEFL (if applicable) scores are sent to:

Graduate Admissions
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

For questions call: 619-594-6336 or email: gra@mail.sdsu.edu. Your application will not be reviewed until all required documents are received.

2. SDSU Gerontology Admissions

Complete the Gerontology application found at http://socialwork.sdsu.edu (Available October 1–March 1). Please indicate “MS Gerontology Admissions” on your packet of materials listed on page four and turn it in to the School of Social Work Office in Hepner Hall room 119. If mailing your application, send it to:

School of Social Work
MS Gerontology Admissions
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA. 92182-4119

NOTE: Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received. Students are strongly encouraged to submit their application as soon as the online applications are available.

To The Gerontology Department Submit:
(Details available with online application).

• Liberal Arts Perspective form (complete only if not a graduate of SDSU, CSU or UC System).
• Personal Statement (outline goals, background, interest, and ability).
• Three letters of recommendation.
• Resume

International Students

All international students must be enrolled in a full course load every semester (9 units) to maintain their F-1 status. If they plan to take less than a full course load of study, they must complete the Application for Reduced Course Load (ARCL) form every semester which they are under-enrolled to maintain their F-1 status. If an international student fails to submit the ARCL form and is not enrolled in a full-course load, they have violated their F-1 status and their SEVIS record will be terminated.

Contact information for MS Gerontology Admissions:

McKenzie Letendre
letendre@rohan.sdsu.edu

It is critical that you apply to CSU Mentor PRIOR to sending your transcripts or your GRE scores to the Graduate Admissions Office.
## Course Offering and Sequence for the Master of Science in Gerontology

Total Required Units: 30 and Elective Units: 6 Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course No.</th>
<th>Title (Units)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GERO 520</td>
<td>Analysis of programs for the aged (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERO 596</td>
<td>Advanced special topics in aging (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWORK 632</td>
<td>Social Work (&amp;Gerontology) Practice: Organization and Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERO 601</td>
<td>Theory &amp; Application in Gerontology &amp; Aging (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GERO 605</td>
<td>Long-term care (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERO 690</td>
<td>Research Methods (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWORK 610</td>
<td>Computer Application in Social Work (and Gerontology) (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWORK 702</td>
<td>Seminar in Selected Social Welfare Policy and Services (3) (Health &amp; Aging focus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERO 740</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar in Social Work Administration and Community Development (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWORK 745</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar in Social Work Administration (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Financial Management for Health Agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERO 700A</td>
<td>Practicum (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERO 799A OR GERO 700B</td>
<td>Thesis (3) or Practicum (3)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE FOR PLAN A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1</th>
<th>YEAR 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FALL</strong></td>
<td><strong>SPRING</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERO 520 (R)</td>
<td>SWORK 632 (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERO 605 (R)</td>
<td>SWORK 702 (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERO 690 (R) (SW690)</td>
<td>SWORK 610 (R)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE FOR PLAN B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1</th>
<th>YEAR 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FALL</strong></td>
<td><strong>SPRING</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERO 520 (R)</td>
<td>SWORK 632 (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERO 605 (R)</td>
<td>SWORK 702 (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERO 690 (R) (SW690)</td>
<td>SWORK 610 (R)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial Aid Tips

View the estimated costs of Education: http://www.csumentor.edu/faq/finaid_costs.asp

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/
- Visit the SDSU Office of Financial Aid website and search for scholarships: http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/scholarship/index.html (619-594-6323, Student Services West Room 3605). Note: Student background information may be required; therefore, some scholarships may ask for parental income. FAFSA is needed for most scholarships. It is recommended that all students fill out the FAFSA.
- Visit the School of Social Work website for scholarships and stipends http://socialwork.sdsu.edu/student-resources/financial-aid/scholarships/
- Cost of attendance is listed on page 9, and can be found at http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/costs.html#grad All students, regardless of residency status, pay registration fees. Non-residents of California pay tuition of $372 per unit in addition to these fees.

Current MS Gerontology Stipends:

- Health Workforce Funding http://www.hwic.org/funding/professions.php
- Consider inquiring about scholarship programs at your job; available through professional, civic, educational or religious groups; and your local public library.

On-line you can begin a general search at:

Scholarships Award Periods:

Fall Cycle: Mid-August through mid-October. All applications due in October.
1st Spring Cycle: Mid-August through early February. All applications due in February.
2nd Spring Cycle: Mid-August through early May. All applications due in May.

Scholarships

David C Pritchard Memorial Scholarship
Value $1,000. October and February. https://studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/faodad/webss$ss.pre_get_schl_Detail?p_account_no=A21309&p_ss_year=2014

John & Jeanette Hebbel Gerontology/Geriatrics Internship Scholarship
Value $1,000. August and February. https://studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/faodad/webss$getScholarshipDetail?p_account_no=A21129&p_ss_year=2014&p_req_id=1

Pearl Koch & Margot Pollak Memorial Scholarship

Fulbright Scholarship – award amount varies http://us.fulbrightonline.org/about/fulbright-us-student-program
Basic Tuition Fees – All Students

SDSU strives to make education affordable for all its students. According to “America’s Best Colleges 2013” published by U.S. News & World Report, SDSU is the number one university in California of graduates with the least amount of debt and ranks among the top ten of universities nationwide. Almost half of SDSU students do not have any debt at graduation and more than 85% have other means to cover educational costs than just loans alone. In the past five years, SDSU has provided more than $40 million in scholarships.

SDSU FALL 2012 Money Matters

The CSU makes every effort to keep student costs to a minimum. Fees listed in published schedules or student accounts may need to be increased when public funding is inadequate. Therefore, CSU must reserve the right, even after initial fee payments are made, to increase or modify any listed fees, without notice, until the date when instruction for a particular semester or quarter has begun. All CSU listed fees should be regarded as estimates that are subject to change upon approval by the Board of Trustees.

You must pay Tuition and Fees before you can access the Web registration system. “My Registration,” available at the SDSU WebPortal, contains registration and payment information. The registration process is not complete until you are officially enrolled in classes. Payment of fees alone does not constitute registration.

All Cashier Holds must be cleared prior to paying for registration. Payments to clear financial holds must be made by cash, debit cards, money order, or certified check. Inquire at Student Account Services for more information. Personal checks or credit cards will NOT be accepted.

Liability for Payment

It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of total fees due whether or not an invoice is received.

Students with an approved Petition for Late Schedule Adjustment must pay any fees that are a result of the added units (in addition to the $20.00 late add fee). For example, a student who is enrolled in 6 units that received an approved Petition to add 3 additional units must pay the difference between part-time and full time fees BEFORE the Office of the Registrar will process the add.

Please note: Dropping a class after the schedule adjustment deadline (based on approved petition only) does not reduce your fee liability. If you are enrolled in 6 units and add 3 units and drop 3 units, you will still be liable for full-time Tuition and Fees.

Students submitting authorization to bill a third party for their Tuition and Fees will be held responsible for payment if the third party agency fails to pay. Should a student or former student fail to pay any debt owed to the institution, the institution may “withhold permission to register, to use facilities for which a fee is authorized to be charged, to receive services, materials, food or merchandise or any combination of the above from any person owing a debt” until the debt is paid (see Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Sections 42380 and 42381).
Prospective students who register for courses offered by the university are obligated for the payment of Tuition and Fees associated with registration for those courses. Failure to cancel registration in any course for an academic term prior to the first day of the academic term gives rise to an obligation to pay Tuition and Fees including any amounts due for the reservation of space in the course.

Basic Tuition and Fees are required of all students. Nonresident and Graduate Business students pay the Basic Tuition and Fees as listed below and additional per unit tuition and fees.

Thesis extension, other zero unit courses and half unit courses are charged as one unit for fee purposes. Auditors pay the same fee as students carrying courses for credit.

---

**San Diego Campus Fall 2012 Basic Tuition & Fees**
(Nonresident and Graduate Business students are charged an additional amount).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post Bachelor Graduate Student</th>
<th>Basic Tuition Fee</th>
<th>Mandatory Campus Fees</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part Time 0-6.0 Units</td>
<td>$2,133.00</td>
<td>$553.00</td>
<td>$2,686.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Time 6.1+ units</td>
<td>$3,678.00</td>
<td>$553.00</td>
<td>$4,231.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tuition for Nonresident Students (Foreign or Out-Of-State)

In addition to Basic Tuition and Fees, foreign and out-of-state students will be charged tuition for all units attempted at a rate of $372.00 PER UNIT.

Basic Tuition and Fees may be paid using any of the methods outlined under Payment Options. To avoid additional service charges (see Installment Plan http://bfa.sdsu.edu/fm/co/cashiers/installment.html), Basic Tuition and Fees must be paid in full prior to the first day of classes. If you are subject to Nonresident Tuition and do not pay in full prior to the start of classes, or submit an installment contract, service charges will be assessed, and late charges may apply. If Nonresident Tuition is not paid prior to the 20th class day (census), your registration may be cancelled.

For tuition purposes, zero unit and half-unit courses are counted as one unit. Auditors pay the same tuition as students carrying courses for credit.

Minimum Payment Requirements for Foreign Students:
- Undergraduate foreign students must pay for, or sign a tuition fee installment payment agreement for a minimum of 12 units.
- Graduate foreign students must pay for, or sign a tuition fee installment payment agreement for a minimum of 9 units.
- Foreign students wishing to pay for fewer than 12 units (9 units, if graduate) must submit to Student Account Services an approved reduced course load request form from the International Student Center.

Health Insurance (mandatory for foreign students) is approximately $700.00 per year.

For more information, please visit http://bfa.sdsu.edu/fm/co/sfs/money/fall2012.pdf

Contact for Additional Questions:
School of Social Work
McKenzie Letendre
letendre@rohan.sdsu.edu
The Center on Aging is the focal point for multidisciplinary education, research, and community service in gerontology and geriatrics. For about forty years, San Diego State University has played a key role in developing gerontological knowledge and improving services to older people. Historically, the University Center on Aging has been in the national forefront in developing new knowledge, stimulating professional interest, and influencing national policy in the area of minority aging. More recently, and in order to better understand the serious problems besetting a growing portion of the ethnic and minority populations, the University Center on Aging has incorporated an international foci. This effort is concerned with collecting information and exchanging knowledge, experience, technology and skills with developed/developing countries and, in particular, with those countries that relate to the ethnic minority elderly of the U.S.A.

For more information, contact: The Center On Aging, (619) 594-6310, or Dr. Anita Harbert, Director, aharbert@mail.sdsu.edu.

Our distinguished faculty are committed to the latest research on the aging population. Current areas of research are as follows:

Dr. Yawen Li’s research focuses on social determinants of health behaviors and health outcomes among older minority adults.

Dr. Jong W. Min’s primary areas of research focus on health disparities, long-term care research and policy, civic engagement, program evaluation on mental health programs for the homebound and vulnerable seniors, and interdisciplinary geriatric education and training.

Dr. Eunjeong Ko’s research focuses on end-of-life decision making, cancer communication, and advance care planning among minority older adults.

Dr. Anita Harbert’s research relates to social welfare policy as it affects the service needs of disadvantaged elderly, particularly in the areas of health care alternatives, elder abuse, family support and nutrition. Dr. Harbert has been involved in the comparative analysis of international service needs and systems of delivery for the elderly in different countries.

Dr. Mario Garrett’s research focuses on the psychology, health and economic well being of American Indian and Alaska Native elders and indigenous populations throughout the world with 18 years of continuous federal and international funding.
FIELD EDUCATION

Field education, which includes placement at an agency and field seminar instruction, is an essential and irreplaceable element of the curriculum in the Gerontology programs at San Diego State University. It is the practicum learning experience that allows students to integrate classroom theory, knowledge, and practice skills in developing professional competence and identity. This content includes the use of gerontology theory in actual practice situations, skill building, and demonstrating professional standards of ethics, values, and practice, under the professional supervision of qualified gerontologists in their role as field instructors.

The field practicum experience supports the primary goal of the gerontology graduate program to offer high-quality education and training that focuses on the theory of gerontology, aging policy, long-term care, research methodology and health service administration and social services. This goal is accomplished by offering course work and field experience aimed at providing the necessary knowledge and skills to encourage and promote gerontology competencies and evidenced based administration and policies related to older adults.

Over time, partnerships have been formed with elder serving agencies and programs throughout the San Diego area. Field agencies, in conjunction with the program curriculum, have provided our gerontology program students with quality field placements in a broad group of agencies, including public, non-profit, multi-disciplinary, inpatient/outpatient settings including psychiatric settings, nursing homes, hospitals, family service agencies, hospices, community mental health, substance abuse, law enforcement, community care clinics, and senior care settings and services, etc.

The result of this joint endeavor, between the department and field agency provides learning opportunities for students to acquire the professional ethics, attitudes, knowledge, and skills that define the gerontology profession. In the end, it also provides the opportunity for students to examine their personal experience relative to involvement or interactions with elders, and assess their interest in and aptitude for professional tasks and responsibilities for practice with and for elders.
GENERAL INFORMATION FOR SDSU STUDENTS

You may apply on-line for university admittance and scholarships. Following is a list of web sites that will provide you general and specific information on particular programs and activities:

- Admissions Information:
  http://www.sdsu.edu/admissions

- Admissions Application:
  http://www.csumentor.com

- Financial Aid/Scholarships:
  http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/fao/index.html

- Housing:
  http://housing.sdsu.edu/housing/

- Centers for Student Involvement:
  http://www.sll.sdsu.edu

- University Catalog:
  http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/catalog/quickref.html

- Campus Tours:
  http://sdsu.edu/campustours

- International Students:
  http://www.isc.sdsu.edu/content/Future/Graduate.html

- Tuition and Other Costs:
  http://bfa.sdsu.edu/fm/co/sfs/studentfees.html

INFORMATION ABOUT THE FIELD OF GERONTOLOGY

- AgeWork.com-Jobs in Aging:
  http://www.agework.com/agework/

- Exploring Careers in Aging:
  http://www.businessandaging.com/

- Association for Gerontology Higher Education:
  http://aghe.org/

- Careers in Aging Week:

- The Gerontological Society of America:
  http://www.geron.org/index.php

- Administration on Aging
  http://www.aoa.gov/

- Society of Certified Senior Advisors:

- American Society on Aging
  http://www.asaging.org/
WHERE DO GERONTOLOGISTS WORK?

HEALTH FACILITIES
• Hospitals
• Diagnostic Centers Community Clinics
• Hospices
• Managed Care

CORPORATIONS
• Marketing of Products & Services
• Market Research
• Product Development
• Private Consulting

REHABILITATION/ JOB PLACEMENT
• State Rehabilitation Agencies
• Job Retraining
• Placement Agencies

RESEARCH
• Universities and Colleges
• Government Agencies
• Corporations

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
• U.S. Congressional Staff
• State Legislative Staff
• Planning/Transportation Agencies
• Housing Agencies
• Area Agencies on Aging

COMMUNITY AGENCIES
• Senior Centers
• Retirement Communities
• Assisted Living Facilities
• Adult Day/Day health Care
• Non-profit Agencies

MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES
• VA and State Hospital Development Centers
• Homebound Programs
• Day Treatment Programs
• Community Mental health Centers

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS
• Retirement Communities
• Congregate Homes

~Adapted from Marti A Klein, Andrus Gerontology Center, University of Southern California~
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About the MS Gerontology Program

1. Why should I pursue a Masters Degree in Gerontology?

Medical advancements and healthier living habits are extending the life spans of humans worldwide. With the increase in life span, there has been given greater focus to the health and well being of older adults in our society. Therefore, gerontologists can find themselves in increasing demand throughout the next few decades, and more will be needed to assist with the growing population of older adults. If you have a passion for working with older adults, and want to work in the field of Gerontology, you have several career options. (See page 14 for career options.)

2. How long will it take to earn my MS degree?

Students take 9 units each semester, completing the program in two years.

3. Why should I attend SDSU for my MS degree?

SDSU provides an environment that fosters advanced training and original scholarship across all disciplines. It offers prospective graduate students and faculty the opportunity to engage in the highest caliber graduate training, academic scholarship and research, in one of the most beautiful and diverse settings in our nation. SDSU has been described by the Carnegie Foundation as a “research university with high research activity”; a statement reflecting the strength and commitment of the campus to its Masters and joint-doctoral programs.

Our programs emphasize a low student-to-faculty ratio, which provides you with excellent opportunities to work closely with faculty. This enhances the quality of your graduate education and gives you the individual attention that ensures an excellent graduate training experience.

The University is a world-class institution, recognized not only for its distinguished academic scholarship but also for its commitment to and success in attracting a diverse cohort. SDSU embraces the rich diversity of its student body and recognizes that this diversity is an integral component to furthering our academic excellence. SDSU’s student population ranks as one of the 25 most racially diverse in the country.

4. What practice areas are offered?

The MS Gerontology program only offers one concentration in health administration.

5. Do you offer a part-time program?

No we do not; however the curriculum consists of only nine units per semester.

6. Do you offer the MS program at any other locations other than San Diego?

Unfortunately no, the program is only offered at SDSU’s main campus.

7. How does an MS in Gerontology differ from an MSW?

The biggest difference between the two degrees is the MSW degree prepares students for a broader range of practice experiences to provide services to different population groups such as children, youth, families and older adults. MSW students address multiple problems and conditions including poverty, homelessness, abuse, psychological needs and health needs. The MS in Gerontology prepares students for practice with a single population: older adults with a focus on program administration in services to the elderly.
8. What career opportunities can I anticipate with an MS in Gerontology?

Gerontologists work in a variety of fields including direct service, education and training, program planning and evaluation, administration and policy, and research. Hospitals employ gerontologists to help older adults seek appropriate medical care. Residential communities need gerontologists to develop programs and activities like health promotion and senior theater groups. To ensure the correct services and goods are reaching older adults, marketing agencies and corporations hire gerontologists. There are also positions with state and federal agencies on aging.

For additional resources on careers in aging, refer to page 14 that outlines where gerontologists work. Also refer to page 13 for useful websites exploring careers within the field of Gerontology.

9. What orientation activities does the school provide for new students?

We require all new students to attend an incoming orientation session that will introduce them to the program, curriculum, field instruction, student organizations and campus resources, which generally takes place one week before classes start. Additionally, we encourage students to set up a campus tour through SDSU Prospective Student services that will provide an introduction to other campus resources and support services. The SDSU International Student Center is also available to help international students become oriented to the school.

10. Do I need to complete a thesis?

MS Gerontology students have the option to either complete a thesis (GERO 799A, Plan A) or complete an additional practicum (GERO 700B, Plan B) in their last semester. Completing a thesis is not required by those who choose Plan B, however students with Plan B must pass the comprehensive exam.

11. What are the admission requirements for the MS Gerontology program?

- Hold a Bachelors degree with liberal arts foundation (UC and CSU systems automatically meet this).
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 for the last 60 units completed with an overall GPA of 2.85.

12. What type of undergraduate degree do I need?

A liberal arts background, spanning both social and biological sciences, is the ideal preparation for the MS program, but you are encouraged to apply even if your bachelor’s degree was not in the liberal arts. All majors are accepted.

13. Do I need to take the GRE and when should I take it?

Yes, the GRE is an SDSU requirement. Although applicants have to complete the entire GRE, faculty only review the “analytical writing” portion of the exam. Graduate Admissions may waive the GRE requirement if you hold a masters degree from a graduate school that was a member of the Council of Graduate Schools (refer to www.cgsnet.org to see if your school is listed. You may also call Graduate Admissions at 619-594-0884).
The deadline to submit the GRE is March 1. It can take up to 3-4 weeks for scores to be reported to SDSU. Please take this into account when registering for the GRE. The GRE should be taken no later than February 15.

14. Do I need to take the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)?
Yes, if your medium of instruction was in a language other than English. Test scores are reported to the Graduate Division and the School of Social Work by the Education Testing Service, SDSU Institution Code 4682. The deadline to receive the TOEFL is March 1. It generally takes up to 3-4 weeks for scores to be reported. The TOEFL should be taken no later than February 15.

15. What are the requirements for international applicants?
In addition to meeting the criteria for admission, international applicants must submit official academic records for all university-level studies completed abroad and at U.S. institutions, evidence of English language proficiency and documentation certifying the student’s ability to meet the cost of attendance each year the student is in the United States. If your medium of instruction was in a language other than English please refer to question 14. Please see http://www.isc.sdsu.edu/ for additional information.

16. What is the MS program application deadline?
All application materials must be postmarked by March 1.
A completed application includes:
CSU mentor application, GRE Scores, Transcripts, Gerontology application, personal statement, three reference letters. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO CHECK YOUR WEB PORTAL TO ENSURE YOUR APPLICATION IS COMPLETE. We strongly encourage each applicant to monitor their application status on the web portal throughout the application process. Please note the School of Social Work will not review any file that is incomplete. All application materials must be postmarked by March 1.

17. How many students are accepted?
The cohorts have been under 10 students.

18. When will I hear whether I am accepted?
Decision letters are mailed via standard U.S. postal mail by May 1. Wait list students may be notified up until June 1.

19. Can I transfer credits from other graduate programs?
Yes, with certain restrictions. Transfer applicants must have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average and be in good standing with your original institution. Class credit will be evaluated and allowed on a case-by-case basis. A maximum of 9 credit hours may be transferred. Please contact Elizabeth Marucheau (MS Admissions Director) with:
1. A two-three page letter containing information on your career goals, Red ID number, mailing address, and describe the reasons that you are transferring. If you took a leave of absence from your major, describe why you needed to take a leave of absence and why you are now ready to resume your Gerontology education. Any problems at your previous school or internship should be explained.
2. Two official copies of student’s transcripts from all schools attended.

3. A letter from the student’s previous university stating that the student is in good academic and professional/ethical standing.

4. Evaluation or progress report on your Field Placement from your previous school.

5. Transfer students are only considered for admission in the Fall semester. The deadline to apply is March 1.

6. Transfer students must take the GRE prior to being admitted to SDSU for graduate study.

20. Can I apply for a Masters in Social Work and a Masters of Science in Gerontology?

The department is currently exploring the possibility of developing a dual degree (MSW/MS Gerontology). At the current time this is not an option.

21. What is the cost of attending graduate school at SDSU?

Please refer to our estimates of tuition and expenses for MS Gerontology students and visit the SDSU Money Matters website for more information about the cost of attendance. http://sdsu.edu/moneymatters

22. Does SDSU provide financial aid?

Yes. The SDSU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship administers federal aid programs and provides information on private financing programs. Please read our overview of financial aid for MS Gerontology students and visit SDSU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship website http://starter.sdsu.edu/fao/ for detailed information about the financial aid application process, deadlines and downloadable forms. To ensure maximum financial aid eligibility, complete all financial aid documents by the deadlines, regardless of your application status. Also, check the scholarships page on the School of Social Work site for additional financial aid opportunities: http://socialwork.sdsu.edu/student-resources/financial-aid/scholarships/

23. Are there any additional financial aid resources?

We offer departmental scholarships to MS Gerontology students. Awards vary and are based on individual merit and financial need. Refer to our scholarships page for more information. http://www.chhs.sdsu.edu/student-resource/scholarships/

University scholarships and private loans are available through the SDSU Financial Aid Office; visit the website at http://starter.sdsu.edu/fao/

24. What financial aid opportunities are available for international students?

Please see the SDSU International Student Center web site http://www.isc.sdsu.edu for more information.

25. Do you offer graduate assistantships?

Yes, please pick up and complete the graduate assistant application from the School of Social Work, Main Office, Hepner Hall, Room 119, after you have been admitted to the program.
26. Is student housing available?
Yes. SDSU Housing Services offers a wide variety of housing options for graduate students, from residence halls to apartments. Most MS Gerontology students do not live in university housing since the San Diego area has numerous interesting communities in which to live, many within a reasonable commuting distance from SDSU. If you decide to apply for housing, we recommend that you submit your application early so that you can receive your admission decision as early as possible—housing applications may only be submitted once you have been admitted to SDSU. Please see the SDSU Housing web site http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/housing/ for more information.

27. Are International Students allowed to be part time?
No, all International Students must be enrolled in a full course load every semester (9 units for graduates, 12 for undergraduates) to maintain their F-1 status. If they plan to take less than a full load of study, they must complete the Application for Reduced Course Load (ARCL) form http://www.isc.sdsu.edu/content/Forms/CurrentForm/ARCL.pdf every semester which they are under enrolled to maintain their F-1 status. If an international student fails to submit the ARCL form and is not enrolled in a full course load status, they have voided their F-1 status and their SEVIS record will be terminated.