GERONTOLOGY AREA OF RESEARCH

Professor Mario D. Garrett has been looking at 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.

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

Dr. Jon W. Min’s primary areas of research focus on health disparities, long-term care research and policy, civic engagement, and interdisciplinary geriatric education and training.

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

Gerontology is a field of academics and professionals dedicated to understanding the unique needs of older adults and their families.

The following is a list of program goals:

- Acquire advanced education and professional training in gerontology in order to become administrators of state and federal programs, services, such as: senior centers, senior service organizations, local and state agencies on aging, supportive senior housing, public, non-profit and corporate settings, health and long-term care facilities.
- Enhance inter generational issues and cultural competence regarding age, cohort, gender, race and ethnicity, and/or diverse abilities.
- Acquire expertise in planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating innovative programs to meet the needs of older persons.
- Provide knowledge and skills necessary to plan, develop, and implement innovative programs to meet the needs of the state’s vast and growing aging population.
- Provide professional field experiences in gerontology to enhance understanding of concepts, themes, and skills related to aging.
- Explore aging-related professional values and ethics for sound professional judgment based on high ethical standards and expectations.
- The field practicum experience focuses on the core areas of theory of gerontology, aging policy, long-term care, research methodology, health service administration and social services. Aimed at providing knowledge and skills to encourage gerontology competencies, evidenced based administration and policies related to older adults.
- The Gerontology program has adopted a systematic infusion of evidence based practice principles into the curriculum and into the work with field agencies.

THE CENTER ON AGING

The Center on Aging is the focal point for multi-disciplinary 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 and minority elderly of the U.S.A.

PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- The student must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the university with classified standing
- Hold a Bachelor’s degree with a liberal arts foundation from an accredited college or university
- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 units (90 quarter), but not less than 2.85 GPA
- GRE Examination and TOEFL Examination (if applicable)
- Personal/professional statement
- Three letters of recommendation
- Undergraduate statistics course

More information can be accessed at http://socialwork.sdsu.edu/degrees-programs/graduate-programs/ms-gerontology/ms-gerontology-application-procedure/