GERO 120 Medical Terminology I (4)
Covers medical terminology, symbols and abbreviations, and the application of this language in the field of health care. While terms are covered as they relate to body structure vocabulary and being able to construct terms using word parts such as roots, suffixes, and prefixes.

GERO 320 Introduction to Gerontology (4)
Explores the relationships between psychological, physiological, behavioral, cognitive, and social aspects of older adults’ lives. In addition, topics related to living environments, retirement, social support, family relationships, and diseases of older adulthood will be covered.

GERO 360 Cognitive and Physical Changes in Aging (4)
Survey of normal and pathological cognitive and physical changes occurring from middle age through older age. Emphasis will be on basic age-related changes and their implications for behavior and quality of life in older age. Topics include biological processes, theories of aging, bodily changes associated with aging, and related medical terminology. Also covers lifestyle and environmental factors affecting aging, and ways of promoting health and preventing disease.

GERO 370 Aging and Mental Health (4)
Mental health needs of older adults will be surveyed. Positive mental health and pathological conditions will be explored as well as risk and protective factors for mental health problems. Also includes a broad survey of common psychological disorders experienced by older adults. Interventions effective with older adults and their families will be explored.

GERO 406 Special Individual Studies (1-6)
Designed for individual or special studies in a defined area of interest under the guidance of a designated faculty member. Course may be repeated for credit if content is different.

GERO 407 Seminar (1-12)
Special topic offerings in the area of gerontology. Terms and hours to be arranged. Course may be repeated for credit if content is different.

GERO 410 Practicum in Gerontology I (4)
Develop personal and professional competencies by participating in a 60-hour field experience. Additional 2-hour weekly seminar class is required covering topics related to integration of gerontological content, workplace issues, professional practices, and career exploration.

GERO 411 Practicum in Gerontology II (6)
Further develop and refine personal and professional competencies as established in GERO 410. Students will participate in a 120-hour field placement and two-hour weekly online activities related to gerontology and their practicum experiences. Prerequisite: gerontology major, GERO 320, another upper division course in Gerontology, and grade of C- or better in GERO 410.

GERO 430 Palliative Care and Chronic Illness (4)
Overview of the principles and practices of palliative care for life-limiting illness and application to chronic illness will be presented. Will address psychosocial needs, pain and symptom management, effective communication, grief and bereavement, and needs of caregivers as these topics relate to end-of-life care in older adults. A historical foundation of the hospice movement that has led to the development of current philosophy of palliative care will be discussed.

GERO 450 Special Topics in Aging (1-4)
Course will focus on advanced topics in the discipline of Gerontology with a focus on aging and health.
GERO 455 Social Ties and Aging (4)
Focus on older persons in social contexts. Will examine historical perspectives; demographic trends; theoretical frameworks and research methods; intimate relationships; intergenerational relationships; and life course transitions. Students will participate in service-learning project that complements course content.

GERO 460 Retirement/LTC Housing for Older Adults (4)
Course will consider long-term care environments as well as the broader retirement living options. Topics will include the different types of living and care environments (e.g. independent, assisted living, skilled nursing, and memory care). Students will also be exposed to basic regulatory structures and how Medicare and Medicaid interface with the long-term care industry.

GERO 462 Special Topics in Aging and Health Care Delivery (1-4)
Advanced topics in Gerontology with a focus on health care delivery systems.

GERO 480 Alzheimer’s Disease and Other Dementias Management (4)
Instruction on effective approaches for providing care to persons with Alzheimer’s disease, other types of dementia and related disorders in residential and home care settings. The major types of dementia and typical behaviors presented by patients are presented along with strategies for successful behavior management. Course also covers risk factors for developing dementia, the neuroscience of dementia, and strategies to reduce the chance of developing dementia.