

# GERONTOLOGY SENIOR ADVOCATE CERTIFICATE



**ONLINE**

It is projected that there will be an increase of 236 million adults aged 65 and older from the time period of 2015 to 2025 in the world (The Aging World: 2015 by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2016). By design, the 21 credit hour Gerontology Senior Advocate Certificate program is in response to an increasing number of careers related to elder advocacy needed to help this growing aging population trends in the coming decades. This certificate is designed for professionals currently working with or wishing to work with a growing aging clientele and who see a need to better understand aging issues. The certificate is also beneficial to individuals faced with elder caregiving responsibilities and who want to be a better advocate for their care recipient.

**TARGET AUDIENCE:**

Graduate students in different healthcare and social services

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

Graduate student standing

**COST:**

<https://www.neiu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-fees-costs-of-attendance> (scroll down to "Graduate" tuition costs and fees)

**REGISTRATION PROCEDURE:**

Please apply through the NEIU graduate school application (select "Graduate" option): <https://admissions.neiu.edu/admission-requirements>

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR:**

The program admits students for the fall, spring and summer semesters.

**DELIVERY MODE:** Fully online

**TOTAL HOURS NEEDED:** 21

**TEXTBOOK PURCHASE:**

Depends upon each instructor but we are moving toward "open access" textbook options in a majority of the classes.

**SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Ongoing Quality Matters online course certifications - the certificate program should be fully certified by 2024.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Northeastern's Gerontology program is the only public state university in northern Illinois offering a post-baccalaureate certificate specifically designed for the training of elder advocates. Further, the gerontology is nationally recognized as a quality graduate program within the field of aging. The program is designed to graduate well-prepared elder advocates who can effectively serve a growing and diverse aging population on a local, national, and global level. This is accomplished in the following ways: Students complete 120 hours of on-site practicum training in a well-established, aging-related organization. Coursework reinforces a strong research model for students, with a solid grounding in human developmental theories. Students learn important skills of good academic writing and critical analysis in reading and writing. Each course in the curriculum emphasizes the development and utilization of these important skills over time as their knowledge increases from introductory to more advanced levels of information. The program has flexible course offerings for both working professionals and lifelong learners with busy lives. Both core and elective courses are offered during the evening and on Saturdays, and many of our elective courses are now fully online. Program faculty assist students with career opportunities and professional development throughout the program and even after graduation. The tuition is the most cost effective in comparison to other comparable gerontology certificate programs in the Chicago area.

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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**WEBSITE:**

<https://www.neiu.edu/academics/college-of-arts-and-sciences/departments/gerontology/gerontology-senior-advocate-certificate>

**REQUIRED COURSES:**

- PSYC 402: Gerontology: An Overview
- PSYC 403: Developmental Processes in aging: Physiological Aspects
- PSYC 415: Practicum in Gerontology \*(if PSYC 415 is waived, an approved graduate-level elective course can be substituted)
- PSYC 418: Public Policy and Aging
- PSYC 426: Values, Decision Making and the Elderly
- Track 1 - Individualized/Community Outreach (choose 2 courses)
  - PSYC 406: Aging and the Family
  - PSYC 412: Psychopathology and Aging
  - PSYC 414: Psychotherapy of the Elderly
  - PSYC 434: Aging Services Network
- Track 2 - Public Policy/Administration (choose 2 courses)
  - PSYC 428: Aging and Cultural Diversity in the U.S.
  - PSYC 432: Meaning of Old Age
  - PSYC 455: Topics in Gerontology