



# Gerontology Career Paths

- for students with social science background -

Prepared by Min-Kyoung Rhee  
Instructional Assistant Professor  
USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology



# Introduction

- Gerontology is becoming one of the fastest-growing employment sectors in the United States and globally due to the rapid rise in the number of the older population and their diverse needs.
- With the knowledge and skills you've learned at USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, there are so many things that you can do to address biological, psychological, social, and policy aspects of aging (<https://gero.usc.edu/what-is-gerontology/>)
- A degree in gerontology can lead to more advanced roles in the field of aging as clinicians, administrators, educators, researchers, and advocates.
- Let's explore the career possibilities more in-depth specifically for the students who have gerontology degrees with more interest in social science.



# Health Services Administration

- Students graduating with a gerontology degree can work in health services administration to plan and manage healthcare services and operations in different settings to ensure quality health care for older adults and their families.
  - Hospitals
  - Nursing homes
  - Health insurance companies
  - Consulting
  - Health marketing and communications
  - Non-profit agencies

# Overview and Detailed Information about Jobs in Health Services Administration

- You may visit the link below to explore information about jobs in health services administration. Click each tab to see the related information (e.g., pay, job outlook)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook* (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/management/medical-and-health-services-managers.htm#tab-1>)








OOH HOME | OCCUPATION FINDER | OOH FAQ | OOH GLOSSARY | A-Z INDEX | OOH SITE MAP

## OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

### Medical and Health Services Managers

Summary | What They Do | Work Environment | How to Become One | Pay | Job Outlook

#### Summary

Quick Facts: Medical and Health Services Managers	
2021 Median Pay 	\$101,340 per year \$48.72 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education 	Bachelor's degree
Work Experience in a Related Occupation 	Less than 5 years
On-the-job Training 	None
Number of Jobs, 2020 	429,800
Job Outlook, 2020-30 	32% (Much faster than average)
Employment Change, 2020-30 	139,600

# Job Search Tools for Health Services Administration



○ Search for healthcare administration jobs at:

- Indeed

[https://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=Healthcare+Administration&vjk=411b3a76640650e7&mna=5&aceid=&gclid=CjwKCAjwve2TBhByEiwAaktM1HW-Ci57vupy0ZBXYFoqAc8pxLa5ZV4Cel63ka6IGOIxKRjMzNZ17RoCBawQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=Healthcare+Administration&vjk=411b3a76640650e7&mna=5&aceid=&gclid=CjwKCAjwve2TBhByEiwAaktM1HW-Ci57vupy0ZBXYFoqAc8pxLa5ZV4Cel63ka6IGOIxKRjMzNZ17RoCBawQAvD_BwE)

- Glassdoor

[https://www.glassdoor.com/Job/los-angeles-healthcare-administration-jobs-SRCH\\_IL.0,11\\_IC1146821\\_KO12,37.htm?sc.keyword=healthcare+administration&Autocomplete=](https://www.glassdoor.com/Job/los-angeles-healthcare-administration-jobs-SRCH_IL.0,11_IC1146821_KO12,37.htm?sc.keyword=healthcare+administration&Autocomplete=)

The image displays two screenshots of job search results. The top screenshot is from Indeed, showing a search for 'Healthcare Administration' jobs in Los Angeles, CA. The search results are sorted by relevance, and the first result is for 'Freelance Integrity Network - Healthcare Administration' in Seattle, WA. A 'Managerial Conslt' job listing is also visible, requiring an account to apply. The bottom screenshot is from Glassdoor, showing search results for 'healthcare administration' jobs in Los Angeles, CA. The search filters are set to 'All Job Types', 'Posted Any Time', '\$34K-\$155K', and '25 Miles'. The first result is for 'Business Operations Manager' at SCAN Health Plan in Downey, CA. Other results include 'Program Manager, Network Quality' at SCAN Health Plan in Long Beach, CA, 'Nursing Home Administrator' at Beecan Health in Los Angeles, CA, and 'Clinical Research Operations Manager - Santa Monica' at UCLA Health in Santa Monica, CA.

# Additional Information on Health Services Administration



- Explore the links below for additional resources.
  - Five Emerging Careers in Healthcare Administration  
<https://www.mhaonline.com/blog/five-new-healthcare-administration-careers>
  - A Guide to Careers in Health Administration  
<https://www.publichealthonline.org/healthcare-administration/>
  - 7 Career Paths in Health Services Administration  
<https://www.thechicagoschool.edu/insight/career-development/7-career-paths-in-health-services-administration/>

# Health Education Specialists and Community Health Workers



- Students graduating with a gerontology degree can also consider working as health education specialists and community health workers. They serve as liaison linking patients, health providers, insurers or health systems to maximize healthy lifestyles among older adults, families, and their communities. After they identify individual and/or community health needs, they design, implement, monitor, and evaluate health education programs. They also administer and manage fiscal resources for health education programs to promote community environments and policies for healthy lifestyles.
- Industries where many health education specialists and community health workers are hired include:
  - General medical and surgical hospitals
  - Local or state governments
  - Outpatient care centers
  - Aging services organizations
  - Long-term residential health care facilities

<https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes211091.htm#nat>

# Overview and Detailed Information about Health Education Specialists and Community Health Workers



- You may visit the link below to explore information about health education specialists and community health workers. Click each tab to see the related information (e.g., pay, job outlook).
- Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook* (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/health-educators.htm>)

OOH HOME | OCCUPATION FINDER | OOH FAQ | OOH GLOSSARY | A-Z INDEX | OOH SITE MAP

## OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

### Health Education Specialists and Community Health Workers

Summary | What They Do | Work Environment | How to Become One | Pay | Job Outlook

#### Summary

Quick Facts: Health Education Specialists and Community Health Workers	
2021 Median Pay ?	\$48,860 per year \$23.49 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education ?	<a href="#">See How to Become One</a>
Work Experience in a Related Occupation ?	None
On-the-job Training ?	<a href="#">See How to Become One</a>
Number of Jobs, 2020 ?	125,200
Job Outlook, 2020-30 ?	17% (Much faster than average)
Employment Change, 2020-30 ?	21,100

# Additional Information on Health Education Specialists and Community Health Workers



- Explore the links below for additional resources.
  - Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) / CPH Exam: What it is and the eligibility for the exam  
<http://hhd.fullerton.edu/pubh/ches/index.php>



# Gerontological Social Work

- Social workers who specialize in gerontological social work are committed to enhancing the overall well-being of older adults, families, caregivers, and communities by coordinating and providing care and services to meet their unmet needs, including health issues, socio-economic challenges, mental health and cognitive issues, social isolation, and etc.
- You may consider pursuing a progressive degree or dual degree in social work to become a gerontological social worker.
- They practice in a variety of settings as below:
  - Hospitals / Outpatient health care centers
  - Aging services organizations / Long-term residential health care facilities
  - Social service agencies
  - Private practices
  - Mental health clinics
  - Hospice

# Overview and Detailed Information about Gerontological Social Workers



- You may visit the link below to explore information about jobs in social work. Click each tab to see the related information (e.g., pay, job outlook)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*  
(<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/social-workers.htm>)

OOH HOME | OCCUPATION FINDER | OOH FAQ | OOH GLOSSARY | A-Z INDEX | OOH SITE MAP

## OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

### Social Workers

Summary | What They Do | Work Environment | How to Become One | Pay | Job Outlook

#### Summary

Quick Facts: Social Workers	
2021 Median Pay ?	\$50,390 per year \$24.23 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education ?	<a href="#">See How to Become One</a>
Work Experience in a Related Occupation ?	None
On-the-job Training ?	<a href="#">See How to Become One</a>
Number of Jobs, 2020 ?	715,600
Job Outlook, 2020-30 ?	12% (Faster than average)
Employment Change, 2020-30 ?	89,200

# Job Search Tools for Gerontological Social Worker



- Search for gerontological social work jobs at:
  - Indeed  
<https://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=geriatric%20social%20worker&l&vjk=2799e7363bd886b3>
  - Glassdoor  
[https://www.glassdoor.com/Job/los-angeles-geriatric-social-worker-jobs-SRCH\\_IL.0,11\\_IC1146821\\_KO12,35.htm](https://www.glassdoor.com/Job/los-angeles-geriatric-social-worker-jobs-SRCH_IL.0,11_IC1146821_KO12,35.htm)
  - National Association of Social Workers  
[https://joblink.socialworkers.org/jobs/?locale=en&page=1&sort=relevance&country=&state=&city=&zip=&latitude=&longitude=&keywords=geriatric&city\\_state\\_zip=&job\\_id=](https://joblink.socialworkers.org/jobs/?locale=en&page=1&sort=relevance&country=&state=&city=&zip=&latitude=&longitude=&keywords=geriatric&city_state_zip=&job_id=)

A screenshot of the NASW job search page. The header is dark green with the NASW logo and navigation links: MyNASW, Join, Advertise, Shop, Donate, About, Practice, Careers, Advocacy, News, Events, Membership. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, Search Jobs, Upload Resume, Contact Us, Virtual Career Fair, Register, Sign In, Post a Job. The main search area has two input fields: 'What' (Keyword, job title, or company) and 'Where' (City, state or zip code), with a 'Find a job' button. Below the search fields are filters for Location, Position Type, Company, Experience, Job Title, and Job Category. The search results show 'geriatric Jobs (Found 298 Jobs)' with a 'Sort By: Relevance' dropdown. A job listing for 'Licensed Clinical Psychologist' at 'CHE Behavioral Health Services' is highlighted with a 'Spotlight' tag. A 'Get new jobs in your inbox' button is also visible.

# Job Search Tools for Gerontological Social Worker (Cont.)



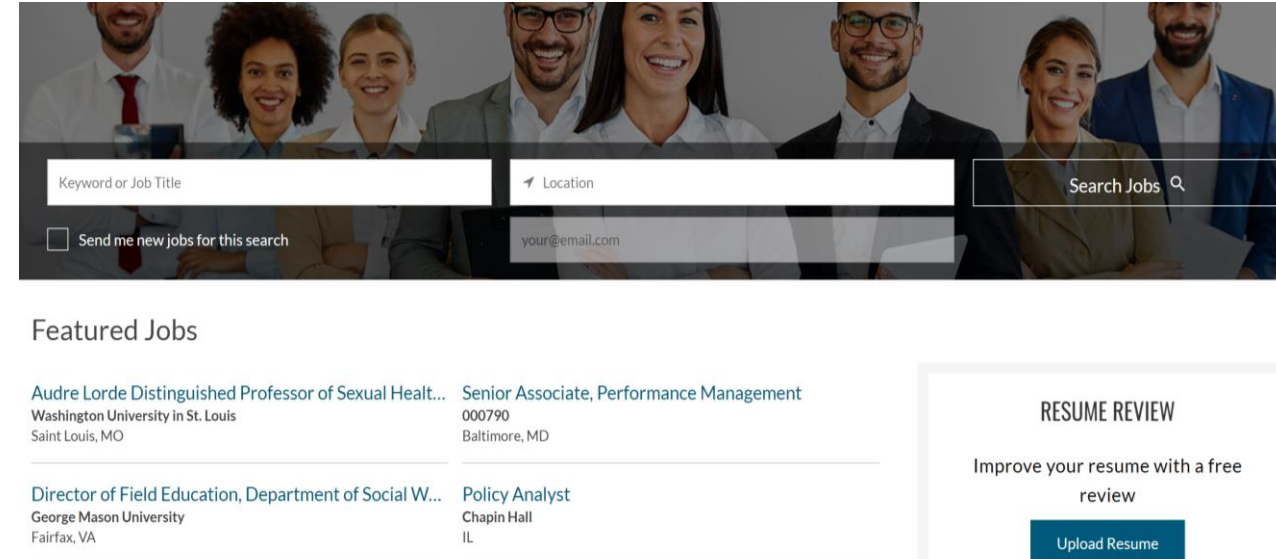
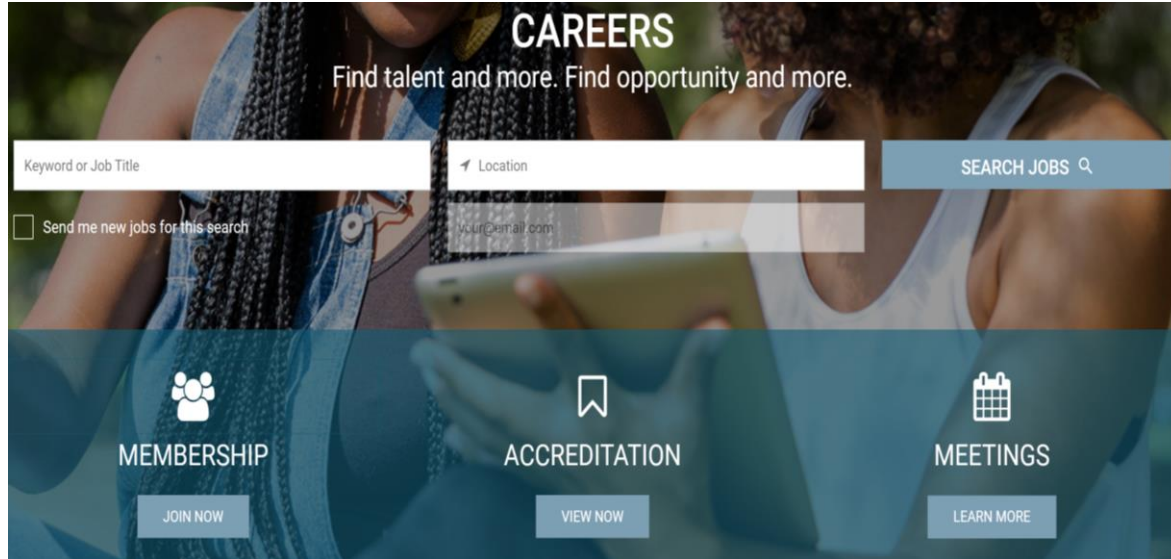
○ Search for gerontological social work jobs at:

- Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)

<https://careers.cswe.org/>

- Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)

<https://sswr-jobs.careerwebsite.com/>



# Additional Information on Gerontological Social Work



- Explore the links below for additional resources.
  - Explore Social Work  
<https://www.socialworkers.org/Careers/Career-Center/Explore-Social-Work>
  - Social Work Practice in Aging  
<https://www.socialworkers.org/Practice/Aging>
  - Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work  
<https://agesw.org/>

# Long-Term Care Facility Manager/Administrator



- Long-term care facility administrators oversee the daily operations of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and adult day cares to improve the quality of patient care services by handling the tasks including staffing, budgeting, marketing, legal, billing, record-keeping, and other business aspects of their center.
  - Overview of long-term care administrator jobs: <https://universityhq.org/how-to-become/long-term-care-administrator-careers/>
  - Search for long-term care administrator jobs: <https://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=Long%20Term%20Care%20Administrator&start=10&vjk=d426894c9dad5451>
  - <https://achca-jobs.careerwebsite.com/>

# How to Apply for a Nursing Home Administrator License



- Information on how to apply/renew for a nursing home administrator license:  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/NHA.aspx#StateExamMasters>
- Nursing home administrator program fee list:  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/NHAPFees.aspx>

# Geriatric Care Managers



- Geriatric care managers are trained social workers, nurses, counselors, and/or gerontologists who offer customized advice and consultations to older adults and their family helping them to make decisions that meet their physical, functional, and emotional needs.
  - Overview: <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/what-geriatric-care-manager>
  - Care manager certifications: [https://www.aginglifecare.org/ALCAWEB/Education/Care\\_Manager\\_Certification/ALCAWEB/Education/Care\\_Manager\\_Certification.aspx?hkey=ffff8fff-e527-4571-b939-c02413f79329](https://www.aginglifecare.org/ALCAWEB/Education/Care_Manager_Certification/ALCAWEB/Education/Care_Manager_Certification.aspx?hkey=ffff8fff-e527-4571-b939-c02413f79329)
  - Search for care manager jobs: <https://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=care%20manager&l&vjk=4783fcd1cad0fe05>

# Social and Community Service Managers



- Social and community service managers coordinate and supervise programs and organizations that support public well-being.
  - Overview: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/management/social-and-community-service-managers.htm> ; <https://www.humanservicesedu.org/social-community-services-manager/> ; <https://www.owlguru.com/career/social-and-community-service-managers/job-description/>
  - Search for care manager jobs: <https://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=community%20service%20manager&l&vjk=1eda1a1d38694659>

# Careers in Hospice and Palliative Care



- Hospice and palliative care providers help coordinate the services that allow their patients to manage pain or make the transition to end of life an easier process. They not only arrange for medical services, but also provide emotional, psychological, and spiritual care for patients who are approaching the end of life.
- Duties and responsibilities include:
  - Coordinating care with hospitals, home care or nursing care providers
  - Providing counseling services for patients and their families to meet each patient's unique needs (e.g., help families to cope with grief and loss)
  - Mediating conflicts and providing crisis intervention
  - Helping with financial documents, advance care directives, and other end-of-life plans
- Overview: <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2015/article/hospice.htm> ;  
<https://careersinpsychology.org/hospice-palliative-social-work-careers/>

# How to Become Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Specialists



- You're highly encouraged to explore following links to learn how to become certified hospice and palliative care specialists.



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

<http://aahpm.org/career/certification>



<https://aphsw-c.org/>

# Job Search Tools for Hospice and Palliative Care Specialists



- Search for hospice and palliative care jobs:  
<https://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=palliative%20hospice&l&vjk=89e8f38c13b518fe>
- [https://scpmg.taleo.net/careersection/scpmg\\_ext/jobsearch.ftl?f=JOB\\_FIELD\(5800120193,5900120193,5600120193,5700120193,29200020916\)&ignoreSavedQuery&g\\_a=2.129103436.1713886811.1652294701-1174442329.1652294701](https://scpmg.taleo.net/careersection/scpmg_ext/jobsearch.ftl?f=JOB_FIELD(5800120193,5900120193,5600120193,5700120193,29200020916)&ignoreSavedQuery&g_a=2.129103436.1713886811.1652294701-1174442329.1652294701)
- <https://jobmart.aahpm.org/jobs/>

The image displays two screenshots of job search platforms. The top screenshot is the Kaiser Permanente Southern California Permanent Medical Group career page. It features a navigation bar with links for 'ABOUT US', 'CAREER OPPORTUNITIES', 'BENEFITS OVERVIEW', 'UPCOMING EVENTS', 'MEET OUR RECRUITERS', and 'OUR LOCATIONS'. A search bar is prominently displayed with the text 'SEARCH BY SPECIALTY'. Below this, the 'CAREER OPPORTUNITIES' section includes a welcome message and a search form with fields for 'Keyword', 'Location', and 'Job Field'. A sidebar on the left shows a list of 'Specialty/Subspecialty' options, including 'Geriatrics/Palliative/Care', 'Hospice/Palliative Med', 'Genetics', 'Family Medicine', and 'Family Medicine'. The bottom screenshot is the AAHPM Job Mart website. It features a navigation bar with links for 'MEMBERSHIP', 'EDUCATION & PRACTICE', 'ADVOCACY', 'CAREER DEVELOPMENT', 'ABOUT', and 'STO'. The main content area includes a search bar, a 'Job Seeker' button, and a list of job results. One job listing is visible for 'Physician - Palliative Care HBPC' at the Department of Veteran Affairs for New Jersey, with an 'APPLY NOW' button and social media icons.



# Considering a Graduate Degree?

- Although a bachelor's degree may allow entrance into the field of gerontology or geriatrics, there may be limitations for those who have only a bachelor's degree to acquire jobs they desire as many jobs require advanced degree.
- Pursuing a master's degree in gerontology or other related field including social work or public health may grant wider access to a variety of jobs of your interest or opportunities to apply for leadership roles.
- If you're interested in applying for graduate schools, review the materials prepared by Dr. Higuchi-Sanabria and Dr. Walsh.



# Progressive Degree

- If you're interested in pursuing a master's degree at USC, Progressive Degree can be a good option as it allows superior USC undergraduate students to apply undergraduate coursework toward the completion of a USC master's degree.
- Relevant degree options to consider: Davis School of Gerontology, Keck School of Medicine, Price School of Public Policy, Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, etc.
- Check out the following links for further information
  - Overview of the Program <https://undergrad.usc.edu/programs/progressive/>
  - Eligibility & Application <https://undergrad.usc.edu/programs/progressive/requirements/>
  - Progressive Degree Program List <https://undergrad.usc.edu/programs/progressive/list/>



**Good Luck!**