Gerontology Career Paths
- for students with social science background -

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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)

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-Ci57vupy0ZBXYFoqAc8pxLa5ZV4Cel63ka6I GOIXK RjMzNZ17RoCBawQA vD_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=
Explore the links below for additional resources.

- Five Emerging Careers in Healthcare Administration
  [https://www.mhaonline.com/blog/five-new-healthcare-administration-careers](https://www.mhaonline.com/blog/five-new-healthcare-administration-careers)

- A Guide to Careers in Health Administration
  [https://www.publichealthonline.org/healthcare-administration/](https://www.publichealthonline.org/healthcare-administration/)

- 7 Career Paths in Health Services Administration
  [https://www.thecichagoschool.edu/insight/career-development/7-career-paths-in-health-services-administration/](https://www.thecichagoschool.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
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).

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
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).

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
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.

  
  • Search for long-term care administrator jobs: [https://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=Long%20Term%20Care%20Administrator&start=10&vjk=d426894c9dad5451](https://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=Long%20Term%20Care%20Administrator&start=10&vjk=d426894c9dad5451)
  
  • [https://achca-jobs.careerwebsite.com/](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.

- Care manager certifications: 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.
  
  
  • Search for care manager jobs: [https://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=community%20service%20manager&l&vjk=1eda1a1d38694659](https://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=community%20service%20manager&l&vjk=1eda1a1d38694659)
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

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.

  - [aaahpm](http://aaahpm.org/career/certification)
  - [APHSW-C](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://jobmart.aahpm.org/jobs/
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.
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/](https://undergrad.usc.edu/programs/progressive/)
- Eligibility & Application [https://undergrad.usc.edu/programs/progressive/requirements/](https://undergrad.usc.edu/programs/progressive/requirements/)
- Progressive Degree Program List [https://undergrad.usc.edu/programs/progressive/list/](https://undergrad.usc.edu/programs/progressive/list/)
Good Luck!