Every seven seconds, another American turns 50.

From 2006 to 2016, new jobs in services for older persons and those with disabilities are expected to increase 74%.

The Age of Aging is Finally Here!

With scientific breakthroughs, an unprecedented global demographic shift toward an older population, increasing life expectancy, and a growing awareness of the social, economic, and political challenges of aging, gerontology is now center stage.

Never has the field been more important or thrilling. Never have gerontologists been in more demand or their work more meaningful.

It’s about time! As the first, largest, and most renowned institution on aging in the world, the University of Southern California Leonard Davis School of Gerontology is the place.

Want to attend a school with a superb reputation around the globe? First-class interdisciplinary studies that lead to the mastery of three or more areas of expertise? The most diverse and cutting-edge course offerings anywhere? Close working relationships with top professionals, both from our faculty and in the working world? Outstanding internships and career placement? That would be us!

The way the world will look tomorrow is being shaped by the gerontologists of today. At the USC Davis School, you will make a difference.
WHAT WE DO
The USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology explores all aspects of human development and aging. Coursework and rich research opportunities in biology, psychology, sociology, policy, and aging services offer a unique, multidisciplinary curriculum.

WHAT STUDENTS GAIN
Let’s start with a broad theoretical understanding of lifespan development. Then add unparalleled experience that promotes success. Our internship programs expose students to a stunning array of industries: health, medicine, business, finance, direct services, program development, public policy, and counseling, to name just some. And then there’s our post-graduate career placement—invaluable!
“The Davis School is the best of both worlds: an intimate school in a world-class research university. With such a rapidly aging population, this field is exploding!”

WHAT WE OFFER

In addition to our undergraduate degrees and programs, USC Davis has a combined five-year undergraduate and graduate degree, five master’s degrees (completed on campus or online), seven dual master’s programs, a graduate certificate, and Ph.D. programs in Gerontology and Biology of Aging.

Cameron Chalfant,
Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Aging
I am delighted to welcome you to the University of Southern California Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. We are proud to be the preeminent leader nationally and internationally in the field of gerontology, the study of aging across the lifespan.

We are a small school that offers a rigorous, highly personalized experience with eminent, caring faculty within a large, world-class research university. It is literally the best of both worlds!

As pioneers in both on-site and online gerontology education, we offer bachelor’s, master’s, and Ph.D. degrees; postdoctoral and certificate programs; and the option to minor in gerontology.

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for all older adults everywhere through our research, service, and education. We couldn’t take our responsibility of reimagining aging around the world more seriously.

WE ARE GERONTOLOGISTS, AND LIFE IS OUR WORK.
Global thinking is especially important to me. I gained invaluable academic, professional, and personal experience both in Israel and the United States. I have seen how interconnected and vital the health of all aging nations are.

For the first time in history, the aged will soon outnumber the young, a phenomenon true for nearly every country. This fact is changing the face of our planet. With the first wave of baby boomers soon approaching age 70 and millions more on their heels, this massive global demographic shift will impact every profession.

At USC Davis, we are at the forefront of the aging revolution.

Our school, faculty, and alumni have outstanding international reputations in biology, neuroscience, sociology, psychology, and public policy. The USC Davis School “family” includes talented students who continue to distinguish themselves.

Gerontology is a thrilling field with wide-ranging career opportunities. Among them are business, administration, medicine, advocacy, law, and nonprofit work. The opportunities here allow students to apply their own interests, passions, and goals to create unique careers and lives they dream of—lives of service and leadership.

You might want to investigate the scientific mystery of longevity, help families navigate difficult transitions, or create revolutionary technology. We often say in our school that the way the world looks tomorrow will be determined by the gerontologists of today—you! With the enormous challenges and opportunities an aging world presents, there has never been a better time to become a gerontologist.

My vision is to widen our School’s public health perspective and provide aging Americans with solutions, from new treatments to better services and increased advocacy. I am excited by our possibilities to further explore the intersection of aging with economics, communications, nutrition, and other disciplines.

More than 2,000 graduates have passed through the USC Davis arches and are helping to change the world by shaping a new chapter in human history. I invite you to become not just one of them, but one of us.

We are gerontologists, and life is our work.

All my best,

Pinchas Cohen, MD
Dean, USC Davis School of Gerontology
Executive Director, Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center
AGING IS THE MOST UNIVERSAL OF HUMAN EXPERIENCES, A COMPLEX PHENOMENON THAT SHAPES INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND SOCIETIES. GERONTOLOGY IS THE STUDY OF AGING ACROSS THE HUMAN LIFESPAN.

GERONTOLOGISTS APPLY A MULTIFACETED MODEL (INVOLVING BIOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, AND POLICY) TO THE STUDY OF AGING.

**BIOLOGICAL**
- Map the genetic mysteries that are our shared legacy
- Unlock the secrets of senescence
- Discover the physiological roots of disease

**SOCIAL**
- Admire the sacrifices and struggles of caregivers and work to ease their burden
- Deliver dignity and facilitate difficult transitions
- Respect the beauty and the balance that aging brings to every community

**PSYCHOLOGICAL**
- Explore the creativity and humanity unique to every mind at every age
- Find ways to help preserve the stories of those who struggle to remember
- Secure the sanctity of the psyche with individualized attention and care

**POLICY**
- Crusade for equality and empowerment through advocacy
- Speak for those who may not always be heard
- Craft revolutionary technology and legislation that refines society
- Champion the past while fighting for the future
WHAT DO GERONTOLOGISTS DO?

- Protect the more than 80 million Americans who will be 65 or older by 2050
- Tackle the biological mysteries of development
- Believe in the wisdom of the ages—all ages
- Honor aging as a triumph to be embraced and revered—focusing on elders’ strengths and creativity, rather than losses and frailties
- Crusade for equality through advocacy and create policy that changes the world
- Discover new therapies for treatment
- Deliver scientific and health solutions as well as social services to those in need
- Study the genetic, physiological, and chemical phenomena of aging
- Create cutting-edge technology to help and to heal
- Respect the physical, mental, and social aspects of the aging process
- Treat those in need with dignity

Inspire, Serve, and Lead
INNOVATORS AND MENTORS

Comprised of some of the world’s most talented minds in gerontology, the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology faculty is a group of intensely talented and passionate researchers and educators. Our faculty members include both the visionaries who pioneered modern aging study and the up-and-coming investigators who take gerontology research and service in exciting new directions.
PINCHAS COHEN, MD

Dean
Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center Executive Director
William and Sylvia Kugel Dean’s Chair in Gerontology

USC Davis School Dean Pinchas Cohen researches aging, Alzheimer’s disease, cancer, diabetes, growth hormone, IGF-biology, and the emerging science of mitochondrial-derived peptides. He is also leading several new initiatives at the USC Davis School, including the development of the Center for Digital Aging and the advancement of tools and techniques for “personalized aging.”

KELVIN DAVIES, PHD, DSC

Vice Dean, Dean of Faculty, and Dean of Research
Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center Director
James E. Birren Chair in Gerontology
USC Free Radical Institute Director

Kelvin Davies is a pioneer in the field of free radical biology. His research centers on the role of free radicals and oxidative stress in biology. In particular, he is interested in genes that repair oxidatively damaged proteins, lipids, RNA, and DNA, and his laboratory has made major contributions to the understanding of this subject over the past twenty years.
Cleopatra Abdou’s research is dedicated to understanding how cultural orientations, views of the self, and the broader social environment promote health and well-being through their influences on the brain and body over the lifespan, beginning with the intrauterine environment and across generations.

Jennifer Ailshire’s research addresses questions at the intersections of social stratification, urban sociology, and the sociology of health and aging. In particular, her research focuses on the importance of the neighborhood environment and social relationships in determining health over the life course. A consistent theme throughout her work is an interest in gender, socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic inequality in health.
EILEEN CRIMMINS, PHD

AARP Professor of Gerontology
University Professor
USC/UCLA Center on Biodemography and Population Health Director

Eileen Crimmins is an international leader in the field of biodemography and is co-investigator of the Health and Retirement Study in the U.S. Her research explores the links between health and socioeconomic status. She was one of the first investigators to combine disease, disability, and mortality indicators in order to examine healthy life expectancy trends.

SEAN CURRAN, PHD

Associate Professor of Gerontology

Sean Curran’s research focuses on molecular, genetic, and biochemical approaches to identifying evolutionarily conserved mechanisms that regulate survival and longevity. He aims to understand the vital roles of metabolism in normal aging and aging pathology, and he compares studies in worms with mammalian cell structure and mouse studies to validate the universality of his findings.
Susan Enguidanos studies palliative care and has conducted extensive research in investigating variation in access to and use of hospice care, which has led to theoretically-driven interventions aimed at improving access to hospice care. She is currently working on understanding care setting transitions for seriously ill patients and developing mechanisms for improving continuity of palliative care for individuals with complicated illness.

SUSAN ENGUIDANOS, PHD

Caleb Finch’s major research interest is the study of basic mechanisms in human aging with a focus on inflammation. He is the author of *The Biology of Human Longevity*, considered a masterwork in the field. He has received most of the major awards in biomedical gerontology and is one of the most cited researchers in the world.

CALEB FINCH, PHD
TARA GRUENEWALD, PHD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Gerontology

A social and health psychologist, Tara Gruenwald's work focuses on the mind-body processes that play a role in healthy aging during older adulthood. A particular interest is understanding how older adults' perceptions of their social usefulness and value affect their mental and physical well-being in later life.

CHANGHAN “DAVID” LEE, PHD
Assistant Professor of Gerontology

David Lee's research focuses on mitochondria and the roles these organelles may play in aging and aging-related diseases at the cellular level. His identification of a peptide that originates in mitochondrial DNA—instead of the DNA in a cell's nucleus—has raised questions about what control the intracellular “powerhouses” have over a cell's life and death.
Professor of Gerontology and Psychology

Mara Mather studies how emotion and stress affect memory and decisions and how these processes change with age. Using both structural and functional neuroimaging, she is also investigating how connectivity among different brain regions involved in emotion and cognition change with age.

MARA MATHER, PHD

Edna Jones Professor of Gerontology
Professor of Biological Science
Director of the USC Longevity Institute

Valter Longo is interested in understanding the fundamental mechanisms of aging in yeast, mice, and humans by using genetics and biochemistry techniques. He is also interested in identifying the molecular pathways conserved from simple organisms to humans that can be modulated to protect against multiple stresses and treat or prevent cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, and other diseases of aging.

VALTER LONGO, PHD
Christian Pike’s research is broadly focused on Alzheimer’s disease, with the general goals of elucidating factors that regulate Alzheimer’s pathogenesis and pursuing translational approaches that will be useful in the prevention and/or treatment of the disease. A primary area of focus in his laboratory is the relationship between age-related loss of steroid hormones and the development of the disease.

Jon Pynoos has spent his career researching, writing, and advising the government and non-profit sectors concerning how to improve housing and long term care for the elderly. He has conducted a large number of applied research projects based on surveys and case studies of housing, aging in place, and long-term care. He is Co-Director of the Fall Prevention Center of Excellence in Los Angeles.
Edward Schneider is a geriatrician and gerontologist and served as dean of the USC Davis School from 1986 to 2004. His research interests include polypharmacy, geriatrics, and health care costs of an aging population. He is the chairperson of the Los Angeles Elder Abuse Forensic Center Advisory Committee and is involved in elder abuse litigation.

John Walsh’s research focuses on the electrophysiological analysis of brain areas that are targets of age-related disease. He studies aging, calcium, and free radical physiology as they relate to changes in synaptic plasticity and cell behavior. His research also examines how toxic environmental challenges affect nerve cell populations typically lost in Parkinson’s disease, Huntington’s disease, and Alzheimer’s disease.
Mary Pickford Foundation Professor of Gerontology

Kate Wilber’s research centers on improving health outcomes and quality of life for vulnerable elders, including those with chronic illness, disability, cognitive impairment, and/or economic insecurity by improving the design and delivery of long-term services and support. One current focus involves evaluating the Elder Abuse Forensic Center model, a multidisciplinary team that links health and social services with the justice system.

Rita and Edward Polusky Chair in Education and Aging
Professor of Gerontology and Psychology

Elizabeth Zelinski studies changes over time in cognition, working memory, reasoning, vocabulary, speed, and language comprehension in older adults. She has worked to develop a computer-based training program and is the principal investigator of the Long Beach Longitudinal Study, which evaluates cognition, memory, and language comprehension in older adults.
The USC Davis School, the nation’s first academic institution to offer bachelor’s, master’s, and PhDs in gerontology, began in 1975 thanks to a donation from Leonard Davis (1924-2001). He wasn’t just a philanthropist; Davis came up with innovative ways for older adults to obtain health, life, and automobile insurance, which had been difficult until then. He also testified on age-related issues before Congressional committees and was a delegate to the 1970 White House Conference on Aging.

Following the passing of Leonard Davis and his wife Sophie Davis, their family members have continued to be incredible advocates for the USC Davis School. Son Alan Davis and daughter-in-law Mary Lou Dauray have extended their generosity to support school facilities, including the Sophie Davis Art Gallery within the Andrus Center, as well as student scholarships, lectures, and more.

It’s only fitting that the USC Davis School and our Andrus Gerontology Center (where research and service takes place) were named for two extraordinarily progressive advocates for older Americans.
Ethel Percy Andrus (1884-1967), in whose memory the Andrus Gerontology Center is named, was a crusader for education as well as older adults. In 1916, at the age of 32, she became California’s first female high school principal. During her 28-year career in Los Angeles, she earned a reputation as an innovator in industrial and adult education. While at the helm, she earned something else, too: a Ph.D. from the USC Rossier School of Education and an expertise in urban education.

Horrified that a retired teacher she met was forced to live in a chicken coop because of his paltry pension, Andrus became a crusader for teachers’ benefits. In 1947, she founded the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA). It offered the first pension and health insurance program for educators over age 65.

When thousands of non-teachers contacted Dr. Andrus about also receiving retirement benefits, she and close friend Leonard Davis created the American Association of Retired Persons, today known as AARP, in 1958. NRTA became part of AARP in 1982.

As AARP President, Andrus expanded the organization’s reach beyond health insurance and other benefits to include travel, second careers, and more. Appreciative AARP members donated most of the funding for the construction of the Andrus Gerontology Center.
The Epicenter of Our Work

The USC Davis School abounds with many innovative and important centers and initiatives. Breakthroughs in our laboratories are being implemented into real-world applications. Our work is changing lives!

The Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center

It’s all about research here. Founded in 1964, this is where the first major research institution devoted exclusively to the study of aging got started and continues robustly today. Ongoing interdisciplinary investigative research at the Center spans neurobiology, molecular biology, cognitive psychology, biodemography, family studies, long term care, and biogerontology.

Biogerontology, for instance, is considered by many scientists to be the most important frontier in aging research. In the Center’s biogerontology laboratories, we are conducting research on the changes that occur in the body during the aging process.

We’re also probing what causes age-related neurological diseases, such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases. The goal of our research is to shed new light on the multiple processes of aging and understand their implications for people, organizations, and society.

The Andrus Center hosts sponsored research centers, major projects, and collaborations with other universities and organizations.
CENTERS & INITIATIVES

FALL PREVENTION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
Imparts leadership, educates, and develops fall prevention programs for seniors, their families, professionals, program administrators, and policy makers. Falls are the number one cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries for adults ages 65 and older. www.stopfalls.org

TINGSTAD OLDER ADULT COUNSELING CENTER
Provides counseling services and programs to people age 55 and older. The campus non-profit center helps with issues and problems that accompany aging, with a focus on depression, anxiety, loss, marriage, family issues, and caregiving. TOACC is a program of the USC Davis School and the USC Department of Psychology. The staff includes graduate students and postdoctoral fellows supervised by licensed psychologists and social workers. gero.usc.edu/TOACC

USC LONGEVITY INSTITUTE
Catalyzes multidisciplinary approaches to translate aging research into interventions that maximize the healthy life span. Scientists and clinicians work together to identify and test dietary, pharmacological, regenerative, and engineering approaches to prevent multiple diseases of aging and maximize healthspan. The Institute focuses on projects that can be rapidly translated into patient wellness as well as projects that have long-term goals. longevityinstitute.usc.edu

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ELDER ABUSE FORENSIC CENTER
Provides expert and comprehensive case examination, documentation, consultation, and prosecution of elder and dependent adult abuse cases. The Center offers a number of services for elder abuse response, including multi-agency team case review and action plans, forensic evaluation and documentation, medical and neuropsychological evaluations, education and training, and victim and social services. Professional county and city agencies may refer a case for discussion at the Forensic Center. www.lacelderabuse.org

USC FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT CENTER
Focuses on helping family caregivers throughout their experience. Since 1989, the FCSC strives to be a model for Los Angeles, the state, and the country by using technology, research, and education to transform caregiving and the long-term care system. The FCSC provides supportive services, including information and education, assessment, individual consultations, respite care, and training. www.fcscgero.org

CREATIVITY AND AGING INITIATIVE
Promotes the creative arts for older adults through events, research, and teaching. Later life is often a time of creativity and growth. The achievements of older artists, musicians, writers, dancers, and actors can be tremendous. The Initiative conducts research on the benefits and science of creative aging and identifies best practices. The Initiative’s research and teaching programs team up with local aging services organizations for rich collaborations. www.creativityandaging.org
**USC/UCLA CENTER ON BIODEMOGRAPHY & POPULATION HEALTH**
Integrates medical, biological, and epidemiological information to model and predict population health trends in a unique collaboration between demographers and biologists at USC and epidemiologists and geriatricians at UCLA. The CBPH provides pilot project money for research and offers a series of seminars and workshops on the two campuses.  
[gero.usc.edu/CBPH](http://gero.usc.edu/CBPH)

**CENTER FOR DIGITAL AGING**
Promotes cutting-edge technology and social media to benefit older adults, their caregivers, and the businesses and organizations that serve them. CDA empowers elders to use technology and also supports the development of innovations to meet the changing needs and challenges of aging. One of the center’s first initiatives was to hold a student competition to create a smartphone app. The first app sponsored by the CDA, USC Guide for Elder Abuse Response (USC-GEAR) was proposed by a team of Davis School graduate students.  
[www.centerfordigitalaging.org](http://www.centerfordigitalaging.org)

**USC FREE RADICAL INSTITUTE**
Conducts and promotes research to tackle the big questions in free radical biology and medicine. Researchers are investigating the role of these highly reactive molecules in cancer, neural and muscular degeneration, cardiovascular disease, liver disease, and more; aging is suspected to be the result of free radical damage. The Institute also assembles diverse, interdisciplinary research teams, with experts in fields ranging from molecular biology to public health, for discovery, translational, reverse-translational, industrial, and clinical scientific collaboration.  
[gero.usc.edu/usc-free-radical-institute](http://gero.usc.edu/usc-free-radical-institute)

**USC EMOTION AND COGNITION LAB**
Investigates how emotion and stress impact cognition throughout the lifespan. Some of the questions explored are: How does aging change decision-making? How does emotion affect memory? How does stress inform risk-taking?  
[www.usc.edu/projects/matherlab](http://www.usc.edu/projects/matherlab)

**CENTER FOR GLOBAL AGING**
Conducts and promotes research on how aging can vary around the world due to social and economic contexts, changes in health, and policies and programs to support aging persons. Topics of interest include physiological aging, health, well-being, caregiving, labor force participation, migration, use of services, family interaction, and social integration.  
[gero.usc.edu/cga](http://gero.usc.edu/cga)

**LONG BEACH LONGITUDINAL STUDY**
Studies the changes and the predictors of change in cognition and evaluates how individual differences and characteristics impact cognitive performance. Seventy-five percent of study participants are age 70 and older; participants must be at least 30 years old. Those enrolled in the study live in Long Beach or nearby cities within Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange counties.  
[gero.usc.edu/lbls](http://gero.usc.edu/lbls)
WHY CHOOSE USC DAVIS?

Here are just six of the many reasons. We have:

- The largest selection of gerontology degree programs in the world
- Hands-on training from our internationally renowned professors
- Master’s level courses available online or onsite
- $500,000 in scholarships given to students annually
- Sophisticated technology, with smart classrooms, a fully connected auditorium, and a new computer lab/lounge
- National conferences on aging and colloquiums on campus, reflecting the school's prominent position in the field of gerontology

“With its wide range of classes from neuroscience to public policy, the Davis School has helped me develop as a leader.”

ASHLEY PHILLIPS,
Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Aging
BETWEEN 2005 AND 2050, THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS AGE 65 AND OLDER WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE, GROWING FROM 37 MILLION TO MORE THAN 80 MILLION.

As the oldest and largest school of gerontology, we have been improving the quality of life for older people for more than 40 years.

But it's not only the Davis School degree that is outstanding. When you visit our campus, you feel the excitement from students and faculty. Excitement about shared learning, new insights and discoveries, and exceptional research opportunities. Excitement about being part of a vibrant, dynamic, and inviting community whose work is impacting generations to come.

You could say that USC Davis School is a serious place where you can also have fun. We offer a myriad of philanthropic, educational, and social organizations on campus.

The icing on the cake? We just happen to be in Los Angeles, one of the most important cities on earth!
At the USC Davis School, you can earn an undergraduate gerontology degree, opt for our accelerated five-year undergraduate/graduate degree program, or minor in aging. There are lots of choices!

**SOCIAL SCIENCE TRACK**

The **Social Science track** is for students who want to pursue a graduate degree and/or a career in law, policy, psychology, sociology, or health administration. The core curriculum offers a broad view of human development in the behavioral sciences.

**HEALTH SCIENCE TRACK**

The **Health Science track** is designed for students who want to continue on for a graduate degree and/or have a career in medicine or other health-related fields. The core curriculum meets general education and medical school entrance requirements.
UNDERGRADUATE

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN LIFESPAN HEALTH

This degree is for students who plan to get a graduate degree and/or career in medicine, pharmacy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychology, or related fields. The curriculum covers the biological and medical aspects of health, including disease prevention, detection, and treatment.

INTERNSHIPS

Both Human Development and Aging and the Lifespan Health majors must complete a supervised internship directly working with older clients. For more information on internships, see page 37.
OTHER UNDERGRADUATE OPTIONS

THE PROGRESSIVE DEGREE PROGRAM

Undergraduates with a GPA of at least 3.0 have the opportunity to complete both their undergraduate and graduate degrees in five years. They apply for admission to this program in their junior year.

MINOR IN GERONTOLOGY

Some undergraduate students prefer to focus on another field or subject area and minor in gerontology. They have two options: our Individuals, Societies, and Aging minor or the Science, Health, and Aging minor.

INDIVIDUALS, SOCIETIES, AND AGING

Rooted largely in behavioral and social science, Individuals, Societies, and Aging is geared to students working toward careers in business, engineering, communication, arts and sciences, or cinema/television.

SCIENCE, HEALTH, AND AGING

Science, Health, and Aging is designed for students who want careers in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, biological sciences, public health, or other health-related fields. This program focuses on the neurology, physiology, and health issues of aging.
MASTER’S DEGREES AND PROGRAMS

gero.usc.edu/students/prospective-students/masters-programs

Here’s something else that distinguishes us: besides the option to learn in the classroom, all USC Davis School master’s programs and our graduate certificate program are available online. Our online programs provide a blended learning environment where students collaborate with other online students from around the U.S. and the world.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GERONTOLOGY (MSG)

This flagship program prepares graduates to take on major leadership roles in the private and public sectors, working in planning, evaluating, and administering programs. It is also designed for graduate students who want to assume executive positions that deliver direct services to older people and their families or teach older adults and service providers.

Requirements: 44 units of coursework and experience in the field. It includes 32 units of required courses and 12 units of specialization courses.

Bonus Points: In conjunction with the MSG, we offer dual-degree programs. Among them are business administration, health administration, planning, public administration, law, dentistry, pharmacy, and social work.
MASTER OF ARTS IN GERONTOLOGY (MAG)

The MAG offers current professionals in the field a chance to acquire superb skills and formal training in gerontology.

Requirements: 28 units of coursework.

Bonus Points: The MAG complements real-world experience, offers executive polish, and helps graduates boost their career potential.

MASTER OF AGING SERVICES MANAGEMENT (MASM)

The MASM is designed to give current and future aging services managers the knowledge and skill set to offer services, programs, and products to older adults.

Requirements: 32 units of coursework.

Bonus Points: Opportunities in the aging services industry are abundant. They include residential care facilities, assisted living, retirement communities, home care and home services, creative therapy initiatives, home modification programs, and hospice care.
MASTER OF LONG TERM CARE ADMINISTRATION (MLTCA)

The MLTCA is a multi-USC school program that combines the social, psychological, and biological aspects of aging with training in the administration and management of long term care organizations.

Requirements: 28 units of coursework.

Bonus Points: You will be participating in a joint program between the USC Davis School of Gerontology, the USC Marshall School of Business, the USC Leventhal School of Accounting, and the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy.
This degree is for those who want to pursue a career in nutrition and dietetics. It can lead to working in health care facilities, long-term care and supported living environments, tertiary and community hospitals, university and school food service programs, a business involving personal wellness, private practice, scientific research on nutrition’s role in health and longevity, or in policy and advocacy. The program promotes health and longevity based on scientific evidence, integrating academic study with professional practice experience.

**Requirements:** 46 units of coursework and 120 hours of supervised practice in hospital, community, and food service settings. Before applying, prerequisite courses are required as well as 40 hours of paid or volunteer work experience with a Registered Dietitian.

**Bonus Points:** The program is a candidate for accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics. You are eligible to take the Commission of Dietetics Registration’s national registration examination. Once you pass, you receive your Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) credential.
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

If you have a bachelor’s degree in another field or major, our certificate program gives you a greater understanding of gerontology theory and research.

Requirements: 16 units of coursework.

Bonus Points: You will supplement and enhance your existing career or skill set and expand your professional opportunities.
PHD PROGRAMS

gero.usc.edu/students/prospective-students/ph-d-programs

We offer two Doctor of Philosophy programs: a Ph.D. in Gerontology and a PhD in the Biology of Aging. USC Davis continues to be out in front on the aging education frontier. Our school created the first gerontology PhD program in the world in 1989 and unveiled the first-ever aging biology PhD program in 2014.

The PhD is our crown jewel, the highest degree you can receive in gerontology anywhere. At USC Davis, we attract top students from around the globe. Balancing rigorous, high-level research training with leadership skills and scientific knowledge, graduates from our PhD programs enter the workforce with superb skills and experience.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN GERONTOLOGY (PHD)

Students learn about the physiology of human development and aging, examining social policies related to aging as well as the psychological, behavioral, and sociological impact on lifespan development. Working closely with a faculty mentor, they concentrate on a specific area of interest and begin the process of discovering and shaping their own academic specialization.

They work closely with faculty on research and publications, participate in colloquia, attend and present at national organization meetings, acquire teaching experience, and develop a rich academic, personal, and professional network.

Requirements: 60 units of coursework and at least four additional dissertation units.

Bonus Points: This degree from this institution opens doors!
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN BIOLOGY OF AGING (PHD)

You could not get more cutting edge! Our newest degree is designed for students who want to become leaders in biogerontology. The focus is on molecular, cellular, and regenerative medicine as well as the integrative biology of aging.

This unique doctoral program, the first of its kind in the field, brings together two world-renowned institutions: the USC Davis School and the Buck Institute for Research on Aging in Northern California. Students can choose a mentor and PhD faculty committee from either the Buck Center or USC. Students’ academic and research activities take place on both the Southern and Northern California campuses.

PhD candidates take core courses on the molecular and cellular biology of aging and age-related diseases and then select a track among neuroscience, molecular and cellular biology, stem cell and regenerative sciences, and biomedical sciences.

Requirements: 60 units, including courses, seminars, and research credit. At least 24 of the 60 units must be formal graduate coursework (lectures or seminars).

Bonus points: You are prepared, and profoundly marketable, for a career in the biomedical field.
CONNECTIONS COUNT!

OUR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HOW AN INTERNSHIP WORKS

There are two components: supervised fieldwork and practicum discussions. Fieldwork often focuses on aspects of social services, policy, business, health services, advocacy, or administration. In practicum discussions, students collaboratively discuss timely issues relative to their studies with professors who weigh in with presentations.

“My studies of Chinese, Spanish, and Italian are proving to be incredibly beneficial! The USC Davis School has so many great internship opportunities abroad. My plan is to use my knowledge of languages to study eldercare in other countries.”

Jackie Dion,
Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Aging and Master of Aging Services Management
The work we do in classrooms and on campus is exciting, but we believe that real world experience through internships completes an education. In our internships, USC Davis School students work directly with gerontology leaders and practitioners. This may be in health care, business, social work, government, or other fields.

We place USC Davis School students in private companies, non-profits, and government agencies related to aging in Los Angeles, around the country, and around the world.

“In conjunction with USC Davis community outreach efforts and our tightly-knit alumni network, internships provide students with both valuable learning experiences and great career opportunities.”

ANNA QUYEN DO NGUYEN, MSG, OTD, OTR/L, Director of Internship Training
SCHOLARSHIPS AT USC DAVIS

Every year, we offer both partial and full tuition scholarships to our gerontology students totaling around $500,000. For more information, visit gero.usc.edu. To apply for aid, please contact the USC Financial Aid department at www.usc.edu/admission/fa.
APPLICATION PROCESS

UNDERGRAD

If you’re a prospective undergrad, you can begin the application process by visiting www.usc.edu/admission/undergraduate. You will find university deadlines, admission requirements, and additional information.

GRADUATE

Prospective grad students can access the general USC graduate application by visiting www.usc.edu/admission/graduate. All of our master’s programs are available for onsite or online students.