

## Recommendation for Discontinuance of a Degree or Certificate Program

(USRR Academic Program Discontinuance Policy <https://policy.ku.edu/governance/USRR#ArticleVIII>)

Name of Program and Type of Program (Degree or Undergraduate or Graduate Certificate):

- Gerontology:
  1. PhD in Gerontology (degree)
  2. Dual-title PhD in Gerontology (degree)
    - a. Communication Studies
    - b. Psychology
    - c. Sociology

Academic plan and subplan codes to be retired:

1. PhD in Gerontology (degree) – GEROGA-PHD
2. Dual-title PhD in Gerontology (degree)
  - a. Communication Studies – COMGER-PHD
  - b. Psychology – PSYGER-PHD
  - c. Sociology – SOCGER-PHD

Department: Sociology

School/College: College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

CIP Code: 30.1101

Number of students currently enrolled (AIR):

- a. 3 students currently enrolled (based on dept data): 2 have completed all coursework; 1 has one course remaining

Average number of students enrolled over the past five academic years (from Tableau)

1. PhD in Gerontology: 1.4
2. Dual-title PhD in Gerontology
  - a. Communication Studies: 0.6
  - b. Psychology: 2.4
  - c. Sociology: 0.2
3. Total students: 4.6 (range 4-6)
4. KBOR minima = 5

Average number of program graduates over the past five years: (from Tableau):

1. PhD in Gerontology: 0
2. Dual-title PhD in Gerontology
  - a. Communication Studies: 0.2
  - b. Psychology: 1
  - c. Sociology: 0
3. Total students: 1 (range 0-3)
4. KBOR minima = 2

Last admit term: Fall 2020 (current term)

Effective date of discontinuance: 6-year window for PhD completion is Spring 2025 (counting the current term as part of the 6-year window). It seems likely that all current students will graduate by then.

**Rationale for recommendation:**

1. Low enrollment: As noted above, the different versions of the program have failed to meet KBOR minima. Even when all versions are totaled, the program is under-enrolled by KBOR criteria.
2. Lack of faculty: Currently there are only two tenured/tenure-track faculty affiliated with the program (Watts, LaPierre). Since the start of the program, faculty have retired or left KU and partner departments have not replaced these individuals or have not replaced these individuals with faculty who specialize in gerontology.

**Impact of discontinuance:**

On students: Current students will be able to complete their degrees. Future students will not be able to enroll in this program.

On faculty: The current tenured/tenure-track faculty will remain in their home departments. Gerontology does not currently house any faculty.

On staff: No impact.

On mission: The College and University can still train researchers in gerontology. The training will just occur through individual mentoring and research experiences in existing partner departments (e.g., COMS, PSYC, SOC)

**Signature and Sequence of Review:****Dean, School/College:****Date:** 14 October 2020**Provost/EVC:****Date:** 20 October 2020

## Tentative Close-Out Plan: Gerontology

Meeting Date: October 8, 2020 (with follow-up notes from e-mails)

Attendees:

- John Colombo (Dean, CLAS)
  - Holly Storkel (Associate Dean, CLAS),
  - Kristine Latta (Director, College Office of Graduate Affairs),
  - Amber Watts (Faculty, PSYC, Gerontology)
  - Tracey LaPierre (Faculty, SOC, Gerontology)
1. Reviewed student lists
    - a. 3 students enrolled: 2 have completed coursework; 1 has 1 course remaining – may need to substitute requirement with a different course or an independent study.
    - b. Corinne Butler (COGA advisor) can assist with any paperwork for substitutions
  2. Current application website: Portal is shut down for future applications. Won't move Gerontology website into sunflower. Will add basic wording on website and catalog to indicate no longer accepting students.
    - a. Heather Anderson in the College can help make the change or get access to the website.
    - b. Now is the time for catalog edits. Rachel Schwien can assist with questions on catalog edits
  3. Budget questions. In general, this unit has a small budget. Mark Reynolds confirmed that there was ~\$2,000 in 700 funds that could be used for a speaker honorarium this year. Current rentals (e.g., MFD) will be cancelled. Mark Reynolds has initiated this process via the SSC.
  4. KUEA scholarship funds. Mark Reynolds is checking on the status of these funds. These will likely move to CLAS or department management but could still be used to support students focusing on gerontology research.
  5. During the close-out period, no one will be named director of the program. The program is technically housed in Sociology. The chair of Sociology should steward the close-out.
  6. The gerontology space on the third floor of Dole will be released to the university. Adam Dubinsky in CLAS has communicated this to Karen Lavendusky. The program would like to occupy the space until the end of the academic year. Adam is checking on whether this is possible. There are numerous files in the Dole space that will need to be disposed of or moved to SOC for archiving.
  7. John will send the official communication to faculty and students re: closing when the request goes to the Provost Office.