



## Aging Studies Explained

The study of aging is a multi-disciplinary perspective, including health science, psychology, business, economics, medicine, sociology, and more.

The older adult population is increasing rapidly which means there will be a growing demand for specialists in the field of aging.

As a gerontologist or gerontological specialist, you will help older adults “maximize their functioning and achieve the highest quality of life.”<sup>1</sup>



## The Growing Aging Population

In 2016 the population age 65 and over was 49.2 million, this number is projected to almost double to 98 million in 2060. By 2040, there will be about 82.3 million older persons, over twice their number in 2000.<sup>2</sup>



The population of people 65 and older is anticipated to grow to be 21.7% of the total U.S. population by the year 2040. The 85 and over population is projected to more than double from 6.4 million in 2016 to 14.6 million in 2040 (a 129% increase).<sup>3</sup>



With 20 percent of Californians projected to be over 65 by 2030 – more than 8 million seniors – the demand for physicians and health workers who understand the unique needs of ailing older adults will soon overwhelm a system sorely lacking geriatric expertise.”<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> (Association of Gerontology in Higher Education, 2004) <sup>2,3</sup> (www.acl.org, "2017 Profile of Older Americans", 2017) <sup>4</sup> (Association of Gerontology in Higher Education, 2004)

## Government Grants and Aging

The government recognizes the importance of increasing the numbers of those trained in the field of aging, with the federal Health Resources and Services administration giving nearly \$37.5 million in grants for the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program.<sup>5</sup>

Programs such as the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program aim to provide better health care for older adults by encouraging the study and specialization in administering services to older adults across multiple professions and discipline.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> (Department of Health and Human Services, 2015) <sup>6</sup> (Department of Health and Human Services, 2015)

# Is there a need for Specialists in the field of Aging?

As the older adult population increases, there will be a greater need for:

- Persons who can be leaders in community and national organizations that seek to help older adults
- Professionals in various fields and disciplines who can assist those suffering from age-related limitations
- Specialists who can encourage older adults to grow and know that they can contribute to the community
- Those who can teach and communicate their knowledge of the aging process to the younger generations
- Persons who can perform research to continue to find better ways for older adults to live better and have fulfilling lives

## WHY CONSIDER THE AGING STUDIES PROGRAM?



### A NEW FIELD

Exciting opportunities for individuals to explore emerging career options.



### HELPING YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Learn more about your own aging process and use the information to help your aging loved ones, their caregivers, and yourself.



### SEEING NEEDS THAT MUST BE MET

Some people have personal experience with needs of older adults that are not being met, and they want to be advocates for change.



### REPRESENTING MINORITY GROUPS

Meet the needs of minority groups that are underrepresented, and create programs and resources to help these aging minority communities.



### MULTIPLE CAREER OPTIONS

Find a wide range of applications across multiple disciplines, from hands-on work to administrative positions in gerontological organizations.