

# The Masters Program in Gerontology



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# The Rationale for Creation of the MA in Gerontology

- The **complexity** of ageing issues
- The **increase** in the elderly population
- especially the “**Old-Old**”
- The **increase** in the **service network** –
- The need to provide educated and trained welfare and health professionals



# The Uniqueness of the Department

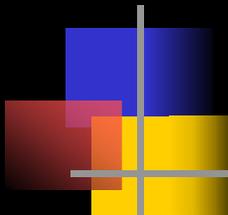
- **One of the two** programs to be activated in Israel in 1999
- **An integrative, interdisciplinary** program with a strong emphasis on training potential academia staff and researchers
- **Educating future top leadership** for policy and management positions in services for older people



# The Uniqueness of the Department – Cont.

- **Developing a unique program** (which we did not find parallel anywhere) **for physicians** working with the aged but without geriatric specialization. This program contains an **expanded module in geriatrics and management**, in addition to social gerontology
- Strong ties to the **Center for Research and Study of Aging**





# Goals

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- **General** – Training potential academic staff, researchers, experts and future leadership cadre
- **Specific** – Development and deepening of interdisciplinary knowledge bases in gerontology and geriatrics
- Development and deepening **research** and scientific knowledge bases and skills
- **Raising awareness** to the wide range of elders needs in an intergenerational perspective
- Exposure of students to the **long-term care** systems of services

# Goals – Cont.

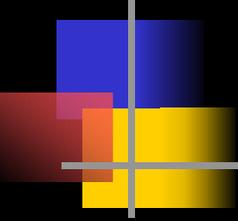
- **Training professional** and competent manpower for interventions, management and leadership in the service network
- Development of **innovative approaches** to education and training in gerontology and geriatrics (**the physicians program**)



# Admission Criteria

- General University criteria
- Undergraduate degree in social and behavioral sciences, medicine, allied health professions (nursing, occupational therapy, physiotherapy), social work, human services, architecture, life sciences with an average of 80
- An English examination – minimum score of 70
- Recommendations – academic and professional
- In certain cases other undergraduates could apply and they may have to take certain points before full admission





# The Structure of Studies

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## **Two tracks:**

A research thesis – 36 academic points

Non-thesis track – 48 points

The program includes:

### **Basic courses –**

Structure and Management of Welfare and Health Services

Epidemiology of Ageing

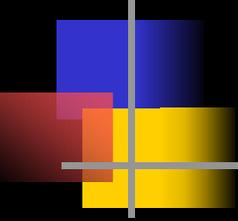
Interdisciplinary Seminar

### **Research courses –**

Advanced Research Methods

Advanced Statistics

Research Thesis/Non-thesis Seminar



# The Structure of Studies – Cont.

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## Competency Courses

### **Social Gerontology**

Social Aspects of Ageing; The Psychology of Ageing; Family Intergenerational Relations; Ethics and Ageing; Psychosocial Aspects of Loss

### **Health and Geriatrics**

The Physiology of Ageing; The Biology of Ageing; Psycho geriatrics  
Health and Illness

### **Management in Ageing**

Management and Organizational Behavior; Social Policy in Ageing; Law and Ageing; Interdisciplinary Teamwork

**Practicum** – About 100 hours of field experience

# The Structure of Studies – Cont.

## Electives

Environmental Planning for Elders  
Sleep and Sleep Disorders in the  
Elderly

Art and Ageing

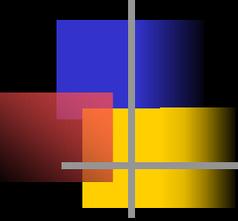
Emotions

Retirement Planning

Health Promotion

Elder Abuse





# The Multi-Dimensional Model: The Overall Picture

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During the **4 years of the department**

**95** students in the regular program were admitted and  
**18** physicians

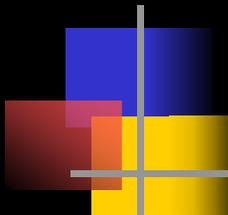
## **The uniqueness of the program for Physicians**

Geared to train physicians whose main clients are the elderly – especially family doctors and physicians working in residential facilities – who did not specialize in geriatrics  
They receive a wider range of courses in geriatrics and management and study in the non-thesis track

# Evaluation of Outcomes

- High rate of satisfaction among students and graduates and University administration
- Advancement of graduates to top management positions
- 5 absorbed in Academia
- 5 working on their PhD
- Program success → increased demand for admission and attraction of high academic personnel





# Future plans

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- To develop several tracks:
- A special research track
- A track in administration and management for top and middle- management directors of long-term care services
- A track in family and intergenerational relations
- A track in health and illness
- A practicum

# Thank You

