

# Doctoral Programs in Gerontology In the US

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# Summary

- 8 programs in US
- USC first, University of North Texas the most recent
- USC private, all others state
- Different emphases and outcomes

# Faculty characteristics

- Most have doctoral level faculty, a few masters' level
- Half the programs have psychologists as the modal discipline
- Most programs have 1 of each of an array of disciplines
- USC even distribution of several psychologists, sociologists, policy, and biologists

# Categories of training

- Public Policy
  - University of Massachusetts Boston
  - University of Maryland Baltimore
- Social and Behavioral
  - University of South Florida
  - University of Kansas
  - USC (until 2004)
- Applied Health
  - Virginia Commonwealth University (online)
  - University of Kentucky
- Basic and Applied Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Demography
  - USC as of Fall 2004

# External Funding of Students

- NIA Training grants—all but Maryland and Virginia Commonwealth
- Research Assistantships from Faculty grants—all but Maryland

# Outcomes (Placement of Graduates)

- Administrative
- Entrepreneurial
- State and Federal research agencies
- Consultants
- Tenure-track and tenured positions

# USC School of Gerontology

- MSG 36-52 units (full time students)
  - Core disciplines, statistics, 450 hr internship
  - Skills (e.g. program evaluation, counseling, administration & systems management, systems of care)
  - Electives
  - Dual degrees with Business Administration, Health Administration, Jewish Family Services, Law, Pharmacy, Public Administration,, Social Work, Urban Planning

# USC School of Gerontology

- MAG 28 units (working professionals)
  - Online, students in Europe
  - Core disciplines, Electives
- MLTCA 28 units (working professionals in long term care industry)
  - Core disciplines
  - Accounting (School of Business Administration)
  - Administration (School of Policy, Planning, & Development)



# MSG/MAG/MLTCA Admissions Criteria

- Average GRE of 1150
- Average undergrad GPA of 3.2
- Average graduate GPA of 3.4
- Or
- Student accepted into another USC program for which we have dual degree and has a satisfactory course record for the first 12 units of graduate study

# Master's Outcomes

- MSG
  - International Students: Korea, Japan, Spain  
administering govt. programs in home countries
  - US: heading up state agencies, Federal agencies,  
advocacy, legislative staff, long term care CEO's
- MAG
  - CEO's, COO's, Vice Presidents
  - US State Program Administrators

# USC School of Gerontology-New Program 2004

- PhD 60 units
  - Core Gerontology Courses, Seminar in Theories of Aging
- Disciplinary Research Skills
  - Sociology/Psychology/Biodemography/Policy Statistics/Methods tracks
  - Biology Laboratory Rotations
  - Engineering
- Qualifying Examinations Parallel to Disciplinary Departments
- Doctoral Dissertation

# Admissions Criteria

- Minimum GRE of 1300
- Strong commitment to research
- Prefer Master's training (they finish faster and know what they want to study)
- Strong undergraduate research experience
- Interdisciplinary interests

# Interuniversity Activities

- Courses at UCLA
- Courses at Rand Institute
- Summer Methods Institute at University of Michigan
- Summer Intern Programs at NIMH & NIA
- Summer Research at Max Planck Institute

# International Students

- Japan
- Sweden
- Brazil
- Korea
- Taiwan
- China
- Israel
- Canada

# PhD Outcomes

- 3 graduates now tenured associate professors
- TT Assistant professors in research universities (Iowa, USF, 2 at Penn State)
- TT Assistant professors in teaching universities
- (Cal State Northridge, Southern Mississippi, Cal State Los Angeles)
- Dean of Social Sciences, community college
- Research Faculty/Directors in medical schools, health maintenance organizations, pension fund organizations, other not for profits

That's all folks!