Graduate Education in Gerontology at the University of Waterloo

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Degrees Offered

- **Undergraduate**
  - Certificate in Gerontology (now eliminated)
  - Gerontology Minor

- **Masters**
  - Original Program (first offered in 1989)
    - MA in Gerontology Broad focus
    - Joint M.Sc. in home discipline + gerontology
    - Undergraduate
  - Revised Program (since 1999)
    - MSc in Health Studies and Gerontology
      - 38 graduates
      - Average time to complete: 2 years
Degrees Offered

- **Masters**
  - **Typical course sequence**
    - Interdisciplinary, integrative seminar
    - Multivariate statistics
    - Program evaluation
    - Epidemiology
    - Health information management for aging populations
    - Elective
  - **Thesis**
Examples of Thesis Topics

- **Masters**
  - Depression and anxiety in nursing home residents
  - End of life care
  - Outcomes in geriatric psychiatry
  - Mammography and clinical breast examinations in elderly home care clients
  - Pain and restraint use in chronic hospitals
  - Acute care service use among elderly home care clients
  - Eligibility criteria for long term care placement
  - Care, costs and quality of life in community and institutional long term care settings
  - Advanced directives and competence
  - Determinants of drug utilization in nursing homes
Degrees Offered

Doctoral

- Existing PhD in Health Studies and Gerontology
  - Three “streams”, one of which is aging
  - 8 graduates
  - Average time to complete: 4 years

- Proposal for Collaborative PhD Program in Aging, Health and Well-being
  - Draws students from all departments in Faculty of Applied Health Sciences
    - Health Studies and Gerontology
    - Kinesiology
    - Recreation and Leisure Studies
Examples of Thesis Topics

- **Doctoral**
  - Health information systems
  - Evaluating quality of community care
  - Medication use in the Chinese elderly
  - Aluminum in drinking water and dementia
  - Case-mix systems for home care
  - Older drivers and fatal motor vehicle crashes
  - Risks factors and interventions for falls
  - Daily physical activity and Type 2 diabetes
  - Environmental factors and delirium
International Collaborations in Graduate Education at UW

- **Research focus**
  - Many students do research related to interRAI assessments
  - Graduate student research links to research agenda of 24 country network
  - Health informatics emerging as a major focus

- **Faculty members from other universities on graduate committees**
  - E.g., Brant Fries, University of Michigan, committee member for three PhD students at UW

- **Doctoral and Post-doctoral “exchange”**
  - Student does Masters/PhD at UW, goes to colleague’s university to do next degree/training program
interRAI Countries
www.interrai.org

Nordic Countries
Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland

North America
Canada
US

Europe
Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland,
France, UK
Italy, Spain,
Czech Republic, Estonia

Middle East
Israel

Pacific Rim
Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong,
Australia, New Zealand