Concentration|New for request 11690

Info

Request: Gero-Epidemiology
Description of request: The Ph.D. program in Epidemiology is proposing to add a new gero-epidemiology concentration. At this time, the Ph.D. program offers a concentration in Clinical and Translational Science and now seeks to add a concentration in Gero-Epidemiology. The goal of the proposed concentration is to provide learners with advanced training in the field of Gerontology from a comprehensive perspective (physiological, epidemiological, psychological). Specifically, we will provide training to epidemiologists interested in the major public health and clinical issues affecting older adults. In addition, this concentration focuses on the epidemiology of major geriatric syndromes, including frailty, disability, falls, and cognitive decline in older populations. This concentration is also offered in response to the students' request for additional concentrations and is consistent with offerings at competitive schools.
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Responses

Proposed Action
*Choose to add a new concentration if the concentration has never been offered before. In this case documentation of consent from all participating departments must be submitted. *
OR,
*Choose to participate in an existing concentration if the concentration has already been approved. In this case documentation of consent from all departments offering the major must be submitted. *

Response:
Create a Concentration

Note that documents can be uploaded on the next page or after the request has been initiated.

Degree Level
Indicate the degree level in which to add the concentration.

Response:
D - Doctoral Degree

Concentration Name
Enter the name of the concentration. Example: "Mathematical Modeling" or "Ecological Restoration".

Response:
Gero-Epidemiology

Credits
Enter the number of credits for the concentration. Note: as a guideline only, graduate concentrations typically range from 9-21 credits (9-12 for master's degrees, or 9-21 for doctoral degrees).

Response:
9

Effective Term
Enter the term (semester and year) that the concentration would start.

Response:
Summer

Effective Year

Response:
2018

Students
Enter the expected number of new students enrolled in this concentration in the first three years.

Response:
6

Percentage of Credits Available Fully Online
Indicate the percentage of course credits that will be available through fully online courses.

Response:
50-99%

Percentage of Credits Available Off-Campus
Indicate the percentage of course credits that will be available away from the main Gainesville campus (including courses with onsite – off main campus meetings).

Response:
50% or more

Is this an additional (secondary) concentration?

Response:
No

All Department/Degree/Majors Adding Concentration
List the department / degree / major combinations at the degree level chosen that will offer this concentration.

Response:
Department of Epidemiology: PhD in
Epidemiology with a concentration in Gero-Epidemiology

For example, to request a new "Wetland Sciences" concentration at the master's level, list all master's level degree / major combinations from all participating departments:

• Forest Resources and Conservation: M.S. in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
• Forest Resources and Conservation: M.S. in Forest Resources and Conservation
• Forest Resources and Conservation: M.F.A.S. in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

- *Forest Resources and Conservation: M.F.R.C. in Forest Resources and Conservation*
- *Geography: M.A in Geography*
- *Geography: M.S. in Geography*
- *Geological Sciences: M.S. in Geology*
- *Geological Sciences: M.S.T. in Geology*

Rationale for Proposed Concentration

Describe the rationale for offering this new concentration and having it on the transcript, how it will enhance the quality of the existing major, how it relates to graduate programs at peer institutions. Also describe what distinguishes this new concentration within the existing major(s) in the degree program, the degree of its overlap with existing majors and concentrations (both in the degree program and in other degree programs at the university), and a justification for any such overlap.

Response:
With the continued "graying" of the worldwide population, the number of individuals at risk for developing age-related disorders continues to increase along with the social, emotional, and economic cost of caring for such individuals. Therefore, nearly every health care- related academic discipline will be faced with the task of integrating Gerontology as a critical area of study.

The overarching goal of the proposed concentration is to provide learners with advanced training in the field of Gero-Epidemiology. This training, provided through courses within the department of Epidemiology and through the Department of Aging and Geriatric Research (DAGR), will help prepare researchers for the frontlines of interdisciplinary team science targeted towards improving the quality of life, health and society for our ever increasing aging population. According to the National Cancer Institute's Team Science Toolkit:

"Team science is a collaborative effort to address a scientific challenge that leverages the strengths and expertise of professionals trained in different fields. Although traditional single-investigator driven approaches are ideal for many scientific endeavors, coordinated teams of investigators with diverse skills and knowledge may be especially helpful for studies of complex social problems with multiple causes.
Over the past two decades, there has been an emerging emphasis on scientifically addressing multi-factorial problems, such as climate change, the rise of chronic disease, and the health impacts of social stratification. This has contributed to a surge of interest and investment in team science. Increasingly, scientists across many disciplines and settings are engaging in team-based research initiatives. These include small and large teams, uni- and multi-disciplinary groups, and efforts that engage multiple stakeholders such as scientists, community members, and policy makers. Academic institutions, industry, national governments, and other funders are also investing in team science initiatives.

A growing trend within team science is cross-disciplinary science in which team members with training and expertise in different fields work together to combine or integrate their perspectives in a single research endeavor.

Cross-disciplinary team science has been identified as a means to engage in expansive studies that address a broad array of complex and interacting variables. It is seen as a promising approach to accelerate scientific innovation and the translation of scientific findings into effective policies and practices."

Curriculum

Students in the "Gero-Epidemiology" Concentration will be required to take nine credit hours based on the following courses:
GMS 6485 Population Based Research on Aging 3; letter
GMS 6099 Research Methods in Gerontology 3; letter

PHC 6016 Social Epidemiology in Public Health 3; letter
TOTAL 9

Some or all of the following courses are strongly recommended, but not required, to supplement the required courses above

GMS 6483 Theories of Aging 3; letter
GMS 6771 Clinical Neuroscience of Aging 3; letter
GMS 6486 Biology of Aging 3; letter
GMS 6715 Healthy Aging: Behavioral and Clinical Outcomes 3; letter
GMS 6717 Healthy Aging: Biological Outcomes 3; letter

Impacts on Other Programs

Describe any potential impact on other programs or departments, including increased need for general education or common prerequisite courses, or increased need for required or elective courses outside of the existing program.

Response:
Through the assistance of the DAGR, whose goal is to train scientists to conduct team science research centered on approaches that improve older adults' health by uniting clinical, population and computational approaches with basic biomedical sciences, this concentration will help our students prepare to conduct team science with gerontologists from different fields. This training paradigm will enhance interactions among students and their mentors that transform the Health Science Center training culture, thus affording doctoral research opportunities that take advantage of research and clinical strengths.

As noted above, we will provide training to epidemiologists interested in the major public health and clinical issues affecting older adults. In addition, this concentration focuses on the epidemiology of major geriatric syndromes, including frailty, disability, falls, and cognitive decline in older populations. The positive partnership between Epidemiology and DAGR will facilitate the students' exposure to integrative expertise in epidemiology, gerontology, and geriatric medicine.

DAGR faculty partner with many Ph.D. programs to improve health in older adults. DAGR faculty have mentored students within the Epidemiology program. The Chair of DAGR Dr. Pahor, the Chair of Epidemiology Dr. Cottler, and the Deans of the College of Medicine and Public Health and Health Professions, Drs. Good and Perri are highly supportive of increasing this interaction.