

A Letter from the Director of the Gerontology Program

The Faculty Affairs Committee of the Graduate School approved the Dual-Title PhD, and unique Field-of-Study codes have been created for each of the participating departments. *Faculty Associates advising doctoral students who wish to graduate with the Dual-Title PhD, must change the Field-of-Study codes for their advisees. Contact the Registrar, Graduate School, and the Graduate Program Director of your home department.*

The Educational Policy Committee has developed guidelines for Faculty Associates and their Graduate Students regarding the requirements for the Dual-Title PhD. The Educational Policy Committee will continue to meet approximately once each semester to review new and existing courses in aging, develop recruitment strategies for attracting new students to Purdue University, and to provide advice and support to Faculty Associates and graduate students in the Gerontology Program.

Faculty Associates are ultimately responsible for the plan-of-study and the approval of the dissertation of each advisee in the Dual-Title PhD Program.

The requirements for this unique program are as follows:

1. 24 credits of graduate coursework from the approved list of courses (**see attached**). This list changes as courses are added or deleted. Note that this is **not** the same list of courses that might be appropriate for the Minor in Gerontology.
2. 3 required courses: Biology of Aging, Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Aging, Research Seminar on Aging and the Life Course
3. Dissertation in aging-related research directed by a Faculty Associate of CALC.
4. Some departments may have additional or specific requirements for their students in the Dual-Title PhD Program.

Coursework

The 24 credits are earned at Purdue University. The three required courses are usually offered for variable credit. The 1 credit seminar may be repeated twice for

a total of three credit hours. Graduate students may earn 5 to 9 credits by taking the required courses.

Additional graduate courses are approved for all students pursuing the Dual-Title PhD. Some of these courses may be taken by students from diverse educational backgrounds while others require extensive disciplinary preparation. Students should seek advice from the professor before enrolling in the course. All approved courses have syllabi filed with the CALC Office.*

Additional courses are currently in review and new courses are solicited.

* Visit the CALC webpage to see courses offered in the next semester

Independent Study Credits

Students may submit up to 6 credits of Independent Study toward the 24 required credits of coursework. Independent Study projects should focus exclusively on aging-related issues within their chosen discipline of study and culminate in a body of work that will be posted on the CALC webpage in the form of an abstract. Faculty Associates of the CALC should direct the Independent Study projects and, consistent with the interdisciplinary focus of the Gerontology Program at Purdue University, graduate students are strongly encouraged to seek Faculty Associates from different departments and disciplines to guide their independent study research.

Graduate students who have completed independent study projects in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Dual-Title PhD may be asked to present their work at a Gerontology Symposium during the academic year.

Dissertation

The dissertation must contribute to the body of knowledge regarding aging and the life course. The method of research, subject selection, topics and design are subject to the approval of the Faculty Associate who is the student's major professor, in association with the members of the dissertation advisory committee.

The Educational Policy Committee offers these questions for determining the acceptability of the dissertation for the Dual-Title PhD: a) Will the work contribute to the body of knowledge regarding aging in the discipline? b) Would the work be logically funded by an agency identified with aging research? c) Would all or part of the study be submitted to a gerontology professional journal,

or presented at a conference on aging? d) Would key words describing the study include: aging, gerontology, or life-course?

Approved Course List

The list of approved courses is subject to change depending on availability of course offerings and instructors willing to insure that the course content is appropriate in the Dual-Title PhD Program.

New and existing courses are continually reviewed for approval by the Educational Policy Committee. Instructors are asked to submit syllabi to the Committee and insure that graduate students enrolled in the course can apply its content to an understanding of aging and its implications.

Some courses which may be used for the Minor are not of sufficient aging content to be included in the Dual-Title PhD list. Use the approved list for guidance when constructing the Plan-of-Study for the Dual-Title PhD.