

Academic Promotion Discipline Statement

Discipline area:	Biomedical and Clinical Sciences
Discipline:	Clinical Sciences
Sub Discipline:	Geriatrics and Gerontology
Schools:	Nursing, Paramedicine and Health Sciences, Allied Health, Exercise and Sports Sciences, Social Work and Arts

Discipline Overview

Geriatrics is traditionally positioned in the clinical practice of medicine and focuses on care and treatment of older persons. Gerontology is the study of ageing and seeks to understand the physical, psychological and social implications of older people from a multi-disciplinary perspective. Academics in this subdiscipline at Charles Sturt University concentrate specifically on the area of gerontology. The multi-disciplinary nature of gerontology sees academics in this area embedded within areas of clinical practice (eg nursing and allied health) and social sciences (eg social work). Gerontology is also taught at post-graduate level in Australia as an interdisciplinary specialisation.

Gerontology is an emerging field in Australia. The term “gerontology” while widely used and recognised in international settings is not common in Australia, where terms such as “ageing” and “aged care” are predominantly used.

Most academic gerontologists follow a traditional academic pathway commencing their career with an undergraduate degree, honours or masters, and PhD. Some may also establish a career path with a focus on education, applied research and clinical practice experience. Despite this being an emerging field, PhD qualifications are evident within industry, with numbers continuing to grow.

Gender Profile

Profession/Industry	Data not currently available
Higher Education Sector	Data not currently available
Charles Sturt University	Predominantly female

Discipline Context and Expectations

INDUSTRY ACCREDITATION	Gerontology itself is not subject to accreditation requirements. However, where gerontology subjects are taught as part of other disciplinary courses and where those courses require accreditation, subjects would need to meet accreditation requirements.
DISCIPLINE PEDAGOGIES	At undergraduate level, pedagogies would be consistent with the relevant discipline wherein gerontology subjects may be taught, while at postgraduate

	level pedagogies may also emphasise interdisciplinary and practice-linked teaching strategies.
STUDENT PROFILE	Masters of Gerontology students are mature aged, usually working in professional practice across health and human services fields. Students are predominantly female and all study online. In 2021, at Charles Sturt, there are 50 students in the Master of Ageing and Health and 19 in the Graduate Certificate. Two Gerontology subjects taught into undergraduate courses tend to have a mix of school leavers/mature aged with class sizes ranging from 24 to 87, taught from the School of Social Work and Arts.
STUDENT FEEDBACK/PERFORMANCE	No unique discipline specific attributes for SuES results
RESEARCH APPROACH	Research in this discipline is predominantly collaborative in nature and generally interdisciplinary. Depending on the nature of the research being undertaken, researchers may engage or work closely with clinical practitioners and/or older adults.
PUBLICATION	<p>Publication standards are high in this field. Publishing 2-3 peer reviewed journal articles each year in Q1 journals, one being as lead author is a reasonable expectation in this field. Journal articles would typically be approximately 5,000 words.</p> <p>Academics are expected to publish in a mix of national and international journals. Discipline-specific journals are international, and publication is highly competitive in this setting. In the absence of discipline specific national journals, academics adopt a broader interdisciplinary approach to publication.</p> <p>Peer reviewed conference abstracts and papers together with presentations often precede journal publications.</p> <p>Book publication in this area has grown significantly, with book chapters generally being approximately 10,000 words.</p> <p>In this field, the main contributor is listed as the first author followed by other authors in order of their contribution as agreed.</p>
CONFERENCES	<p>The Australian Association of Gerontology Conference is the premier conference in this discipline. An invitation or selection to present is considered prestigious.</p> <p>Consist with the approach taken for major international conferences, selection to present is subject to competitive peer review and entails submission of an abstract followed by full conference paper.</p>
GRANTS	Level 1 grants through the Australian Research Council and National Health and Medical Research Council are very competitive and extremely difficult to secure. Typically, grants are sourced from State government, health bodies and industry and range from \$30,000 up to \$300,000.
HDR SUPERVISION	As the discipline evolves, opportunities for PhD supervision are increasing. PhD's are likely to focus on an aspect of aging more broadly rather than gerontology itself. Academics have opportunities for both primary and co-supervision.
RECOGNITION	There are no unique industry specific award or fellowships.



EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT	Academics in gerontology would usually engage with a range of external organisations, including health, aged care, human services, government departments and older person's advocacy groups and may have membership of Australian Association of Gerontology or discipline specific gerontology groups.
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION	As a multi-disciplinary field, professionals are registered/accredited within their primary discipline.

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