

## What Can I Do with a Major in Gerontology

Gerontology is the physical, mental, and sociological study of aging. It includes the study of changes in adults as they age, the ways that society changes with an aging population, and the ways we apply this information to programs and policies for older adults. A degree in gerontology prepares the student for careers working with older adults or as advocates for the elderly.

### Sample Job Titles (some of these may require further education)

Administrator	Mental Health Worker
Advocate	Negotiator
Business Manager	Nursing Home Administrator
Case Worker	Nursing Home Events Coordinator
Case Aid Worker	Public Policy Analyst
Congressional Aide	Policy Advocate
Community Educator	Peace Corps/Vista
Community Organizer/Action Director	Political Aide
Corporate Gerontologist	Program Planner
Crisis Counselor	Recreational Assistant
Director, Non-Profit Agency	Research Analyst/Consultant
Discrimination Investigator	Respite Care Coordinator
Geriatric Care Manager	Retirement Advisor
Geriatric Social Worker	Senior Activity Coordinator
Gerontologist	Social Worker
Geropsychologist	Social Services Administrator
Government Advisor	Social Welfare Examiner
Health Educator	Teacher/Professor
Intake Counselor	Victim Services Specialist
Lawyer	Volunteer Coordinator
Market Research Analyst	

### Related Major Skills

Communication skills, verbal and written	Knowledge of community resources
Knowledge of diversity issues	Knowledge of social structures and change
Critical thinking Skills	Understanding of corporate and government organizational structures
Ability to research	Ability to understand and improve human relationships
Ability to organize and synthesize material in new ways	Planning and managing skills
Observational Skills	Problem solving skills
Analytical skills	Conflict resolution skills
Advocacy Skills	

International Organizations of Interest – A Brief Sampling[Association for Gerontology in Higher Education \(www.aghe.org/\)](http://www.aghe.org/)

The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (aka AGHE) is the international leader in advancing education on aging and is the only institutional membership organization devoted primarily to gerontology and geriatrics education since 1974. AGHE's mission is two-fold: (1) To advance gerontology and geriatrics education in academic institutions; and (2) To provide leadership and support of gerontology and geriatrics education faculty and students at education institutions.

[International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics \(www.iagg.info/\)](http://www.iagg.info/)

The mission of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics is to promote the highest levels of achievement in gerontological research and training worldwide, and to interact with other international, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations in the promotion of gerontological interests globally and on behalf of its member associations. The Association pursues these activities with a view of enhancing the highest quality of life and well being of all people as they experience ageing at individual and societal levels.

[International Association of Homes and Services for the Aging \(www.iahsa.net/\)](http://www.iahsa.net/)

IAHSA represents more than 20,000 ageing services providers worldwide who serve almost 5 million elderly daily. Our provider members are for profit, not-for-profit and governmental. Many of our provider members are part of IAHSA Chapters; however, we welcome individual provider organizations. The Global Ageing Network also includes Global Industry Partners, business members, university researchers, government agencies, educators and individuals interested in global ageing.

[International Federation on Aging \(www.ifa-fiv.org/\)](http://www.ifa-fiv.org/)

We are an international non-governmental organization with a membership base of NGOs, the corporate sector, academia, government, and individuals. We believe in 'generating positive change for older people throughout the world by stimulating, collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on rights, policies, and practices that improve the quality of life of people as they age.'

[International Society for Aging and Physical Activity \(www.isapa.org/\)](http://www.isapa.org/)

ISAPA is an international not-for-profit society promoting research, clinical practice, and public policy initiatives in the area of aging and physical activity.

[Peace Corps \(www.peacecorps.gov\)](http://www.peacecorps.gov)

The Peace Corps traces its roots and mission to 1960. Since that time, nearly 200,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 139 host countries to work on issues ranging from AIDS education to information technology and environmental preservation. Today's Peace Corps is more vital than ever, working in emerging and essential areas such as information technology and

business development, and committing more than 1,000 new Volunteers as a part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Peace Corps Volunteers continue to help countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities.

[World Health Organization \(www.who.int/ageing/en/\)](http://www.who.int/ageing/en/)

WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

National Organizations of Interest – A Brief Sampling

[American Association of Retired Persons \(www.aarp.org/\)](http://www.aarp.org/)

Founded in 1958, AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50 and over improve the quality of their lives. AARP has offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. As a social welfare organization, as well as, the nation's largest membership organization for people 50+, AARP is leading a revolution in the way people view and live life.

[American Geriatrics Society \(www.americangeriatrics.org\)](http://www.americangeriatrics.org/)

The American Geriatrics Society (AGS) is a not-for-profit organization of close to 6,000 health professionals devoted to improving the health, independence and quality of life of all older people. The Society provides leadership to healthcare professionals, policy makers and the public by implementing and advocating for programs in patient care, research, professional and public education, and public policy.

[American Society on Aging \(www.asaging.org\)](http://www.asaging.org/)

Founded in 1954, the American Society on Aging is an association of diverse individuals bound by a common goal: to support the commitment and enhance the knowledge and skills of those who seek to improve the quality of life of older adults and their families. The membership of ASA is a multidisciplinary array of professionals who are concerned with the physical, emotional, social, economic and spiritual aspects of aging. They range from practitioners, educators, administrators, policymakers, business people, researchers, students, and more.

[Gerontological Society of America \(www.geron.org/\)](http://www.geron.org/)

We are the oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education, and practice in the field of aging. GSA's principal mission — and that of our 5,200 members — is to advance the study of aging and disseminate information among scientists, decision makers, and the general public.

[National Association for Professional Gerontologists \(www.napgerontologists.org\)](http://www.napgerontologists.org/) This organization's mission works towards promoting and credentialing the education of professionals in the field of Gerontology in the United States.



[National Council on Aging \(www.ncoa.org\)](http://www.ncoa.org)

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) is a nonprofit service and advocacy organization headquartered in Washington, DC. Our mission is to improve the lives of older Americans. NCOA is a national voice for older adults—especially those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged—and the community organizations that serve them. We bring together nonprofit organizations, businesses, and government to develop creative solutions that improve the lives of all older adults. We work with thousands of organizations across the country to help seniors find jobs and benefits, improve their health, live independently, and remain active in their communities.

[National Institute on Aging \(www.nia.nih.gov/\)](http://www.nia.nih.gov/)

NIA, one of the 27 Institutes and Centers of NIH, leads a broad scientific effort to understand the nature of aging and to extend the healthy, active years of life. In 1974, Congress granted authority to form NIA to provide leadership in aging research, training, health information dissemination, and other programs relevant to aging and older people.

[Southern Gerontological Society \(www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/sgs/index.asp\)](http://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/sgs/index.asp)

The Southern Gerontological Society is a network of the South's most respected gerontology professionals. Southern Gerontological Society members are educators, aging network personnel, researchers, health professionals, and policy makers. SGS provides the bridge between research and practice, translating and applying knowledge in the field of aging.

[Internships \(Nationally and Internationally\) – A Brief Sampling](#)

[Alzheimer's Association of Illinois \(www.alz.org\)](http://www.alz.org) The Alzheimer's Association is the leading, global voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care and support, and the largest private, nonprofit funder of Alzheimer research.

[Beth Israel Hospital Post-Masters Fellowship Program \(www.bidmc.org\)](http://www.bidmc.org) The Post-Master's Fellowship in Gerontological Social Work was originally developed at Beth Israel Hospital by a group of senior clinical social workers who were committed to teaching advanced level specialty skills of working with the elderly in a health care setting. The program is based in Boston, MA and takes applications on a rolling basis.

[City of Chicago Internships](#)

[\(www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dhr/provdrs/emp/svcs/internships.html\)](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dhr/provdrs/emp/svcs/internships.html)

[ElderCare Rights Alliance](#) ECRA promotes individualized, respectful, safe, and healthy care for Minnesota's vulnerable adults and the aging population. ECRA empowers and educates these clients, their families, caregivers, and professionals.

[Families USA \(www.familiesusa.org/about/about-internship-opportunities.html\)](http://www.familiesusa.org/about/about-internship-opportunities.html) Families USA is a national nonprofit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the achievement of high-quality, affordable health care for all Americans. Working at the national, state, and community levels, we have earned a national reputation as an effective voice for health care consumers for 25 years



[Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly \(www.littlebrotherschicago.org\)](http://www.littlebrotherschicago.org) Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly (LBFE) Chicago Chapter brings companionship and social interaction to isolated and lonely elders. This last year we served 1,181 elders, with the indispensable help of 1,572 volunteers giving more than 41,461 hours of their time.

[NEIU Office of Career Services College Central Network \(www.collegecentral.com/neiu\)](http://www.collegecentral.com/neiu)  
The job and internship listing site for NEIU's Office of Career Services.

[North Shore Senior Center \(https://www.nssc.org\)](https://www.nssc.org) The North Shore Senior Center is a resource for older adults and their families. Here adults of all ages and their family members can enjoy active and fulfilling lives in Lifelong Learning programs or support services to provide extra help so they continue living in their own homes as they grow older, among familiar surroundings, friends and family.

#### Volunteer opportunities (nationally and internationally) – A Brief Sampling

[Americorps \(www.americorps.org\)](http://www.americorps.org)

Often referred to as the “domestic Peace Corps”, because both agencies are committed to service. A stint in Americorps usually lasts about ten months. A stipend is included.

[Chicago Community Resource Network \(www.chicagovolunteer.net/\)](http://www.chicagovolunteer.net/)

For over 60 years, the Volunteer Center and First Call for Help have linked people with volunteer opportunities and community resources throughout Metropolitan Chicago. You may search by zip code and field of interest to find opportunities near you.

[Peace Corps Volunteers \(www.peacecorps.gov\)](http://www.peacecorps.gov)

[Volunteers of America \(www.voa.org\)](http://www.voa.org) This is a national, nonprofit, spiritually-based organization that provides local human service programs and the opportunity for individual and community involvement. Volunteers of America offers a full continuum of services and opportunities for older America.

#### Employing Organizations (Nationally and Internationally) – A Brief Sampling

[Experience Works \(www.experienceworks.org\)](http://www.experienceworks.org) Experience Works helps low-income seniors, with multiple barriers to employment, get the training they need to find good jobs in their local communities.

[National Association of Area Agencies on Aging \(www.n4a.org\)](http://www.n4a.org) The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging's primary mission is to build the capacity of its members to help older persons and persons with disabilities live with dignity and choices in their homes and communities for as long as possible.



[National Institute on Aging \(www.nia.nih.gov/\)](http://www.nia.nih.gov/)

NIA, one of the 27 Institutes and Centers of NIH, leads a broad scientific effort to understand the nature of aging and to extend the healthy, active years of life. In 1974, Congress granted authority to form NIA to provide leadership in aging research, training, health information dissemination, and other programs relevant to aging and older people.

[Sunrise Senior Living \(www.sunriseseniorliving.com\)](http://www.sunriseseniorliving.com) Sunrise Senior Living's unique resident-centered services are delivered by a team trained to encourage independence, preserve the dignity, enable freedom of choice and protect the privacy of each resident we serve.

[United States Department of Veterans Affairs \(www.va.gov\)](http://www.va.gov) To provide veterans the world-class benefits and services they have earned - and to do so by adhering to the highest standards of compassion, commitment, excellence, professionalism, integrity, accountability, and stewardship.

[United States Social Security Administration \(www.ssa.gov\)](http://www.ssa.gov) For over 65 years, the Social Security Administration has played a part in the lives of nearly everyone you know. Social Security has kept millions of elderly and disabled individuals safe from poverty. With over 90% of the U.S. population covered by Social Security, new challenges require that we question the limits of the status quo, reaching outside of the realm of the usual and standard.

#### Organizations of Interest in Chicago-area – A Brief Sampling

[Blind Service Association \(http://blindserviceassociation.org\)](http://blindserviceassociation.org) Founded in 1924, Blind Service Association provides reading and recording services free of charge to its clients, in addition to a number of other successful and popular educational, recreational, and support programs for visually impaired people of all ages.

[Center of Concern \(http://centerofconcern.org\)](http://centerofconcern.org) The Center's primary objectives are to assist those in crisis and follow up with supportive services, and to provide support for the homebound elderly and disabled to help them retain their independence. Services are offered under Senior Support, Housing, and Counseling programs.

[Humanitarian Service Project \(www.humanitarianservice.org\)](http://www.humanitarianservice.org) It is the mission of the Humanitarian Service Project to alleviate the pain and suffering poverty brings to children and the elderly living in DuPage and Kane Counties, IL. We currently have 115 seniors in our Senior Citizen Project who receive 80 to 90 lbs of nourishing food delivered to their homes each month. In each delivery they receive: seven frozen meats, a selection of five fresh fruits, a selection of six fresh vegetables, five bags of non-perishable food, & a bag of personal care items and paper products. They also receive secret pal gifts each month along with items from their wish lists.

[Illinois Department on Aging \(www.state.il.us/aging/default.htm\)](http://www.state.il.us/aging/default.htm) The Illinois Department on Aging helps older people live independently in their own homes and communities. To best serve older





adults, we must also serve their families and teach younger people about the realities of aging, so many of our programs have an intergenerational emphasis. Working with Area Agencies on Aging, community-based service providers and older people themselves, the Illinois Department on Aging strives to improve quality of life for current and future generations of older Illinoisans.

[Mather Lifeways](http://www.matherlifeways.com) ([www.matherlifeways.com](http://www.matherlifeways.com)) Simply, we enhance the lives of older adults by creating Ways to Age Well. Founded in 1941 by entrepreneur and humanitarian Alonzo Mather, we're dedicated to providing a continuum of living and care; making neighborhoods better places for older adults to live, work, learn, contribute, and play; and identifying, implementing, and sharing progressive practices for wellness, workforce issues, memory care support, and empowering caregivers.

[Services for Adults Staying in Their Homes](http://sasihome.org) (<http://sasihome.org>) Services for Adults Staying in Their Homes (established in 1975) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports the efforts of older adults to remain in their homes: we make living easier.

[YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago](http://www.ymcachgo.org/index.php) ([www.ymcachgo.org/index.php](http://www.ymcachgo.org/index.php)) Whether teaching children to swim, rescuing young men from gangs, training adults for the workforce, providing expectant mothers with prenatal care or serving transients with housing and supportive care, YMCAs collaborate with public service providers, government agencies, churches and neighborhood associations to improve life quality and encourage individual achievement.

#### On-line Job Boards

(NEIU's Office of Career Services Job Board: [www.collegecentral.com/neiu](http://www.collegecentral.com/neiu))

<http://www.hwic.org/experts/browse/xa17>

[www.agework.com](http://www.agework.com)

[www.careersinaging.com](http://www.careersinaging.com)

[www.socialservice.com](http://www.socialservice.com)

[www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org)

[www.retirementhomes.com](http://www.retirementhomes.com)

[www.assistedseniorliving.net/](http://www.assistedseniorliving.net/)

[www.medicalworkers.com/gerontology-jobs.aspx](http://www.medicalworkers.com/gerontology-jobs.aspx)

[www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov)

[www.aahsa.org](http://www.aahsa.org)

[www.cqcareers.org](http://www.cqcareers.org)

[www.nahc.org](http://www.nahc.org)

[www.thenaap.com](http://www.thenaap.com)

[www.hospitaljobsonline.com](http://www.hospitaljobsonline.com)

<http://careers.nhpco.org/>

<http://lizrose.biz/socialworkworld/index.htm>

[www.seniorhousingjobs.com](http://www.seniorhousingjobs.com)

[www.alfa.org](http://www.alfa.org)

[www.psychologycareercenter.org](http://www.psychologycareercenter.org)

<http://npo.net>

[www.govtjobs.com](http://www.govtjobs.com)

<http://www.state.il.us/aging/1directory/directory-main.htm>

<http://careers.leadingage.org/>

<http://careers.aahsa.org/>

[www.healthcareers.com/site\\_templates/AGS/index.asp?aff=AGS&SPLD=AGS](http://www.healthcareers.com/site_templates/AGS/index.asp?aff=AGS&SPLD=AGS)

[www.carecareers.net](http://www.carecareers.net)

[www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org)

