

SOCIAL WORK IN GERONTOLOGY SPECIALIZATION 2016-2017

Specialization Coordinator: Esme Fuller-Thomson esme.fuller.thomson@utoronto.ca

Core Faculty List: David Burnes, Esme Fuller-Thomson, Lynn McDonald

Two-Year MSW Full-Time Program

[AGE 2000H](#) Principles of Aging

[SWK 4612Y](#) Social Work and Aging: Integrated Policy and Practice (full-course)

[SWK 4513H](#) Knowledge Building in Social Work

[SWK 4618H](#) Special Issues in Gerontological Social Work

Two half-credit graduate level electives (of which **one** must be from the Collaborative Program in Aging and the Life Course listing) www.aging.utoronto.ca (Program >> Core Courses & Electives)

[SWK 4702Y](#) Social Work Practicum II

All students will complete the Collaborative Program in Aging, Palliative and Supportive Care Across the Life Course with no additional course work required.

MSW Program with Advanced Standing complete the above courses plus, the compulsory course:

[SWK 4510H](#) Research for Evidence-Based Social Work Practice. SWK 4510H must be completed before taking any of the research courses in the specialization. Students take this course in the first terms of the MSW Program.

Related Elective Examples*

[SWK 4634H](#) Family Practice Across the Life Cycle: Caregiving and Older Adults

[SWK 4637H](#) Special Topics: Social Work in Palliative Care

[SWK 4641H](#) Special Topics: Elder Abuse

* These are examples of electives related to gerontology – offered most years but not every year depending on instructor availability

Practicum Implications: A gerontology setting provides the student with opportunities to develop expertise in working with clients over the age of 50 and/or their adult children who are caregiving for older adults, and may also include opportunities to work with clients across the adult age span.

Placement Examples*

Alzheimer Society of Ontario

Baycrest Centre

Black Creek Community Health Centre

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Circle of Care

Extendicare Brampton

Family Service Toronto

Hawthorne Place Care Centre

LOFT Community Services

London Health Sciences Centre

Mount Sinai Hospital
Runnymede Health Centre
Southlake Regional Health Centre
SPRINT: Senior People's Resource Centre in North Toronto
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Toronto Western Hospital
Trillium Health Partners

*These are examples of placements – offered most years but not every year depending on supervisor availability

Career Prospects

Students may work in the areas of case management, senior's mental health (i.e., dementia, addictions), caregiver support, in policy development, service outreach, program running for senior and their families, and counselling support. Alumni may work at locations such as Long-Term Care Homes, hospitals, healthcare centres, mental health service centres and hospitals, and government offices (i.e., Veterans Affairs Canada).

FAQ's:

When do I declare my specialization?

Year 1 or 2-year MSW Program: Submit your form to the Registrar, normally at the beginning of February <http://socialwork.utoronto.ca/current-students/forms/>

Advanced Standing MSW Program: Indicate area of specialization when applying for admission to the program.

Who do I contact for advice on my specialization selection?

Your faculty advisor. Advisors are assigned to students by the Associate Dean, Academic's Office. Notification is by e-mail at the start of September. If you do not know who your advisor is, e-mail Natasha Valentine: n.valentine@utoronto.ca

Can I take core courses offered in other specializations to count as my electives?

Students have the option of taking a course from another specialization to count as an elective if there is room in the course after students in the Specialization have enrolled. Check with the Faculty Registrar to see whether there is space in another specialization course prior to the start of the term the course is offered. Typically, we will know if there is room in a course by the end of July for Fall Session courses and by the end of November for January Session courses.

What competencies can I expect to gain from this specialization?

Students in the Gerontology specialization can expect to gain the knowledge and skills necessary for assisting older individuals and their families in meeting the challenges of an aging society. Students will learn to provide a wide variety of services and programs performed in community and institutional settings that aim to improve the quality of life of older adults as well as enhance the abilities of families to provide for their aging family member's needs. Students also learn to develop and implement policy on both the provincial and national level through performing research on aging, learning how to consult with the government, and how to engage in social advocacy.