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Diploma in Gerontology

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Langara offers a two-year comprehensive, applied and interdisciplinary program in gerontology that prepares students to work with the increasing population of older persons. Students learn how to promote, support, and advocate for the well-being, health, and resilience of older persons.

The aging population is culturally-diverse and the program has a strong emphasis on understanding the aging process in the context of indigenous and other diverse cultural values and beliefs.



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The program includes a mix of theoretical knowledge, skills-training, and practical experience. Students learn how to work with older adults in partnership with family members, community groups, and professionals. Field placements in gerontology service settings (400 hours) provide students with the opportunity to apply specialized skills, knowledge and ethics, and develop professional practice skills.



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Graduates are prepared for careers in the field of gerontology within a wide range of services; health and wellness, education, recreation, community support, social advocacy, residential and palliative care.

UNIQUE ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM

- The only entry-level Diploma in Gerontology program in BC
- On campus face-to-face program
- Supportive learning environment with small classes
- Experiential learning in both the classroom and the field placement (400 hours)
- Comprehensive interdisciplinary curriculum
- Knowledgeable faculty and professionals currently working in the field

Langara.

THE COLLEGE OF HIGHER LEARNING.

Impact lives: Discover a meaningful career providing services for an aging population.

CANADA'S AGING POPULATION

- Statistics Canada's 2016 Census indicates that for the first time, older persons outnumber children in this country. There are now 5.9 million Canadians who are 65 years of age and over compared to 5.8 million Canadians who are age 14 and under.
- The needs of the aging population will require a comprehensive multidisciplinary response from knowledgeable, committed professionals in gerontology who are trained to respond thoughtfully and compassionately to all older persons as they transition from being healthy and active to becoming more frail and having acute care needs including palliative care.
- In response to profound and far-reaching changes in Canadian demographics Langara is well positioned to offer a unique 2-year Diploma in Gerontology.

WHAT IS GERONTOLOGY?

- Gerontology is the comprehensive, multidisciplinary study of aging and older adults.

WHY STUDY GERONTOLOGY?

- The majority of older persons will want to "age in place" in their own homes and communities. Older persons will require assistance in order to remain physically active, be socially engaged, build "resilience", and be as healthy and independent as possible in their homes and communities. This means that they will require a range of services in health and wellness, education, recreation, community supports, and advocacy as they navigate the health care and social service systems.

- Services will likely be offered through senior centres, community centers, neighbourhood houses, community coalitions, ethno-cultural organizations, indigenous communities, family service agencies as well as hospitals and residential care facilities. Palliative care will increasingly be needed for older people and support will be required for these individuals and their families.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- This is a dynamic and exciting field with tremendous career opportunities for people who have a passion for working with older persons, communities, and professionals as they develop new and innovative approaches to aging. The aim of this program is to position students for a career in the field of gerontology where there will be increasing reliance on community-based agencies to provide health promotion, prevention, and support services to older adults in order to prevent social isolation and deal effectively with both physical and mental health needs.
- Students will be introduced to the networks of services that exist in the community throughout the program through field visits, guest speakers, and practicum opportunities.

*Students should refer to the website for further details about the program, prerequisites, and admission criteria, as well as course descriptions and how to apply to the program.

Learn more.

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It is imperative that education remain relevant and one way to do this is to ensure we have comprehensive opportunities for students of all ages and backgrounds to learn about social environments that surround us. The field of aging is an example of this opportunity. As the global population ages, there comes tremendous opportunity, but there also emerges potential cultural, economic, and political challenges. Gerontology programs such as this are fundamental to address the information deficit around supporting older adults and the aging process. Congratulations to Langara College for their foresight and leadership in joining other esteemed academic institutions across the world in offering current and prospective students the opportunity to participate in experiential-learning initiatives in the field of aging and social gerontology.

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