

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Senate (for information only)

FROM: Ann Dirkes, Chair  
Curriculum Review Subcommittee

DATE: April 9, 1992

SUBJ: Certificate in Gerontology

The Curriculum Review Subcommittee recommends the Certificate in Gerontology for the IPFW campus. The proposal is attached.

## APPLICATION FORM FOR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- I. Campus: Fort Wayne
- II. Proposed Degree: Certificate in Gerontology
- III. Projected Date of Implementation: Fall 1993
- IV. List the major objectives of the proposed Area Certificate and describe its chief features briefly.

The major objectives of the Gerontology Certificate Program will be to provide an interdisciplinary program in gerontology that prepares students to work in applied settings, or to gain admission to a graduate gerontology program.

The Gerontology Certificate Program will have the following features: (a) it will be interdisciplinary, (b) it will be grounded in basic academic courses concerning the aging process, health (physical and mental) in elderly persons, and social issues in aging, and (c) it will include applied coursework and a strong practicum component for applied work in a specific discipline according to student interest. This practicum work will be supervised by a faculty member and the gerontology coordinator to maintain program credibility and to provide liability/accountability, as well as to insure quality services.

- V. Why is the certificate needed? (Rationale)

A Gerontology Certificate program is needed in order to meet a growing need for gerontological services in northeastern Indiana. Persons are living longer, and the percentage of the population who are elderly is increasing. In 1900, the number of persons over 65 was 4% of the population. Today, this number is about 10% and by 2030, it will be about 17% of the population. Some rural counties have 30%-40% of their population in this age group. Careers in gerontology and geriatrics, therefore, are growing. Many of the jobs in this area did not exist five or ten years ago, and more will be developing in the future. The majority of people trained in gerontology gain employment within a 50-mile radius of their alma mater, and there is a clear need for such people in the counties surrounding IPFW. In addition to basic coursework in gerontology, the certificate would allow for some preparation for employment. It would also provide recognition to students for goal-directed efforts.

This certificate proposal is the result of the charge given to the Vice Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Aging and the Aged. The committee is charged with meeting the educational needs of those wishing to specialize in work with the elderly as well as of elderly citizens themselves. Several years ago, the committee developed a two-course sequence called "Issues in Aging, I & II," which was team taught by volunteers and cross-listed by several departments. Since that time, the committee has discussed developing a formal program in gerontology. This certificate proposal is the culmination of several years' work. Future goals include a Gerontology Minor.

Appendix A contains a membership list of the Vice Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Aging and the Aged during the 1990/91 Academic year when this certificate proposal was developed.

VI. Describe the student population to be served.

The Gerontology curriculum has been designed to serve three types of students, some of whom may be new to the IPFW campus. They are:

- (1) Undergraduates who wish to add a certificate to their undergraduate associate or baccalaureate degree program for personal interest or career preparation. This group includes those who will work directly with the elderly, as well as those who may wish to go on to graduate training in gerontology or geriatrics. In a recent survey, the departments of Audiology and Speech Sciences, Human Services (formerly Mental Health Technology), Music (the Music Therapy program) and Sociology and Anthropology expressed the belief that several of their majors would opt for such a certificate. Other departments, Biological Sciences, Communication, Nursing and Psychological Sciences, indicated that some of their majors would complete a gerontology certificate.
- (2) Degreed health care providers working in the community who seek continuing professional development.
- (3) Older adults themselves who are planning career changes or who study for personal interest.

Appendix B contains enrollment data for several relevant courses in Gerontology that have been offered over the past ten years. Note that CFS 399, MHT 299/351, and NURS 399 represent the cross-listed course, "Issues in Aging".

VII. How does this certificate complement the campus or departmental mission?

Part of the mission of IPFW is to serve our region. The Gerontology Certificate Program would help meet the local need for people trained in applied gerontology programs. The program would provide services to community agencies allowing practicing professionals to take advantage of educational and networking opportunities.

VIII. Describe any relationship to existing degree programs within the I.U. System.

There are several existing programs in gerontology in the I.U. system. On the Bloomington campus there are several programs in Gerontology Therapeutic Recreation. These include undergraduate and graduate certificates and minors. At IUPUI there are undergraduate certificate and graduate concentrations in gerontology available. At I.U. - South Bend there is an undergraduate gerontology minor. At virtually all campuses in the I.U. system there is coursework available in gerontology, although programs may not yet have been developed. Gerontology is clearly an important field, and this is reflected in the programs and courses throughout the system. Our certificate, however, is not intended to compete with programs on other campuses. Our purpose is to meet

the needs of our students.

On the IPFW campus, the program would be interdisciplinary in nature. It would draw on already existing courses for most of its requirements (a few courses may still be developed). By coordinating the efforts of faculty from various professions, each with their own perspective on and expertise in the area of gerontology, the program would serve its students by providing the necessary organization and guidance in selecting courses from a number of fields which would best prepare them to meet the needs of the geriatric community.

- IX. List and indicate the sources (including reallocation) of any new resources (personnel, financial, learning, etc.) required to implement the proposed program.

The Dean of Arts and Sciences has committed the following resources to the Gerontology Certificate Program: one-course release time for both academic semesters for the coordinator of the program (the equivalent of one associate faculty stipend per semester), the equivalent of one associate faculty salary to divide among the team teachers of the core course (GERN G231) for one semester per year, and several hundred dollars of an S&E line of credit. The Dean has stipulated that the costs and benefits of the program shall be evaluated after three years. Most of the courses in the Certificate are already part of the IPFW curriculum, and the present IPFW library resources have been supporting these courses.

- X. Describe any innovative features of the program (e.g., involvement with local or regional agencies, offices, etc. cooperative efforts with other institutions, etc.).

The proposed certificate program has been designed to meet the educational and personnel needs of the community, in particular, the needs of the local public and private agencies which provide gerontological services and of the elderly themselves. Input and feedback concerning this certificate program have been solicited from local area agencies, including the Senior Health Care Coordinating Council, N.E. Area III Council on Aging, and the Byron Health Center. Their responses have been enthusiastically supportive, and it is anticipated that there will be continued cooperation with these agencies in the future to the benefit of all. A letter of support for the proposed Gerontology program from the Area III Council on Aging and the Byron Health Center is attached in Appendix C.

The Proposed Curriculum:

<u>Required Courses</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Core courses:</b>	<b>6</b>
CERN C231 Introduction to Gerontology	3
Practicum (see below for list of practicums)	3
<b>Additional courses<sup>1</sup> chosen from the following</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Behavioral Sciences</b>	
AUS 399/590 Communication and Older People	3
PSY 367 Adult Development and Aging <sup>2</sup>	3
SOC S331 Social Gerontology	3
<b>Biological and Science</b>	
BIOL 327 The Biology of Aging	3
NURS 399 Gerontological Nursing	3
F&N 303E Nutrition Education	3
<b>Humanities and Arts</b>	
PHIL 312 Medical Ethics	3
MUS L340 Music Therapy Methods & Materials	3
MUS U354 Introduction to Creative Arts Therapies for Health Care Professionals	1-2
<b>Other</b>	
NURS 113 Nurse-Client Interaction	1
MHT 351 Human Services for the Elderly	3
Independent or Directed Study (in Gerontology or Aging)	3
<b>Possible practicum courses<sup>3</sup></b>	
MHT 101 Introductory Clinical in Human Services (2 Cr.)	
MHT 151 Clinical in Activity Therapies (2 Cr.)	
MHT 205 Clinical in Human Services (3 Cr.)	
MHT 251 Clinical in Case Study Method Lab (2 Cr.)	
SOC S398 Internship in the Behavioral Sciences (3 Cr.)	
PHIL 480 Practicum in Applied Ethics (3 Cr.)	
NURS 490 Nursing Practicum (up to 6 Cr.)	
MUS L254 Music Therapy Practicum I (1 Cr.)	
MUS L353 Music Therapy Practicum II (1 Cr.)	
MUS L354 Music Therapy Practicum III (1 Cr.)	
MUS L42I Music Therapy Psychiatric Practicum (1 Cr.)	
MUS L424 Music Therapy Internship (2 Cr.)	

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<sup>1</sup>The program of courses must be approved by the Gerontology Coordinator.

<sup>2</sup>Formerly PSY 363 Human Development III: Adulthood

<sup>3</sup>The practicum must be done in a geriatric setting, and approved by the Gerontology Coordinator. Some of the practicum courses are available only to majors in the discipline.

**APPENDIX A**  
(Certificate Preparation)

This certificate proposal was prepared by the Vice Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Aging and the Aged during the 1990/91 academic year. The majority of the certificate preparation was done by Nancy Kelley, with assistance from Elaine Blakemore, Linda Wright and Bill Bruening, and input from other committee members. Questions about the certificate should be directed to Nancy Kelley or Elaine Blakemore. The committee membership during the year was:

Elaine Blakemore, Psychological Sciences, CHAIR  
Elliott Blumenthal, Biological Sciences  
Bill Bruening, Philosophy  
Pauline Flynn, Audiology and Speech Sciences  
Opal Freiburger, Nursing  
Pauline Hunsberger, Library  
Nancy Kelley, Psychological Sciences  
Mitchell Sherr, Supervision  
Susan Skekloff, Library  
Wen-hui Tsai, Sociology and Anthropology  
Linda Wright, Music  
Robert Wise, Physics, Emeritus  
John Mauch, Administrator, Byron Health Center  
Diann Shappell, Director, N.E. Area III Council on Aging

APPENDIX B  
(Enrollment Data 1980 - 1991)

	CFS 399	MHT 299	MHT 351	NUR 399	PSY 363	SOC S331	SOC S360*	SOC S410*
SPRING 1991			11					
FALL 1990	4		7	1				
SPRING 1990	2		5	1	15			
FALL 1989	4		2	4				
SPRING 1989	9		17		26			
FALL 1988								
SPRING 1988	2		5	0		26		
FALL 1987			13	2				
SPRING 1987								
FALL 1986					15			
SPRING 1986	2		4	1				
FALL 1985	7		5		19			
SPRING 1985								
FALL 1984	1		2	5				
SPRING 1984	6		6	4				
FALL 1983	4	5		12	18			
SPRING 1983							11	6
FALL 1982								
SPRING 1982		6						
FALL 1981							10	
SPRING 1981								
FALL 1980			11				12	
TOTAL	41	22	77	30	93	26	33	6

\*Both SOC S360 and SOC S410 are Sociology of Aging

APPENDIX C  
(Support Letter)  
Indiana - Purdue University

Advisory Committee  
on  
Aging and the Aged

November 15, 1990

From: Diane Shappell, Director, N.E. Area III Council on Aging and  
John Mauch, Executive Director, Byron Health Center.

RE: Gerontology Certificate

The Gerontology Certificate program can provide career advantages to the University graduate as well as enhance quality of life through a better personal understanding of the aging process.

Aging is impacting all aspects of American society. Businesses must understand the mature market in order to create products or services to add value to the life of a growing portion of the consumer marketplace. The issues of aging are often ignored in the regular subject matter of required core subjects and must be treated as a concentrated curriculum of specialty courses in order to develop the special understanding necessary to address the needs of the aging and aged.

There are a number of career opportunities in the service of the elderly. Social work and health care programs have been developed to meet the increasing demand for services. Social work opportunities range from case management and counseling services to program administration. Health care opportunities include elder care services for nurses to health care administration. There is a need not only for newly prepared graduates but also for presently employed professionals to return to the University to enroll in courses to enhance their understanding of this population segment.

The focus on the need for special preparation has already been reflected with increasing demands for academic credentialing by programs serving elderly. Nursing home administrators are now required to meet additional entry level academic standards as well as ongoing continuing education. The certificate program can help to meet these needs in this and other professions serving the elderly.