

About Us

General Background

By the year 2020, more than 20 percent of the population is expected to reach the age of retirement. With the increase in the number of older adults living in Louisiana, there will come a greater need to ensure the successful aging of the population of our state. The Life Course and Aging Center faculty recognize that successful aging begins at birth and continues through the rest of our lives. Therefore, we are committed to identifying the keys to successful aging and educating the public about these important issues.

The mission of the LCAC is: (1) to promote collaborative research activities across the social, psychological and physical sciences; (2) develop life course and aging education and curricula; and (3) collaborate with human service organizations throughout the state. The LCAC facilitates life course and aging interdisciplinary research collaborations as well as doctoral training opportunities for interested students at LSU.

Faculty Research

To date, there is a core faculty of 48 members on the LSU campus who represent 6 colleges, with 11 schools and departments committed to advancing the center. The LCAC adjunct faculty includes 16 faculty members from 7 different institutions around the state. We anticipate that the LCAC will continue to draw national and international attention to the university and to the faculty whose teaching and research are related to life course development and aging.

Areas of research include the following:

- Cognitive Processes and Aging
- Behavioral Aspects of Aging
- Early Childhood Development
- Education across the Lifespan
- Interpersonal Relations across the Lifespan
- Lifespan Development and Public Policy
- Physical Processes and Aging
- Sociological Aspects of Aging

Community Outreach

Our faculty also design and implement programs in the community that provide needed help to Louisiana citizens of all ages.

Recent outreach programs include:

New Dementia Training Course: Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area is collaborating with LCAC faculty and LSU Continuing Education offered a new online Dementia Training Course for facility employees who interact with patients diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders. This 2-hour Dementia Training Course is certified and approved by the OLOL Health Career Institute.

Tai Chi Training: Jan Hondzinski and Arend van Gemmert (LCAC and Kinesiology faculty) research the training effects of Tai Chi for adults with neurological disorders. Today the program also includes people with Parkinson's disease.

Programs

Faculty involved with Life Course and Aging Center are actively engaged in advancing our knowledge of the human life course and aging. We are committed to training undergraduate and graduate students in a unique, collaborative academic context.

Graduate Educational Opportunities

At the graduate level, students have the unique opportunity to pursue a Ph.D. in their home department while taking courses with an emphasis in life course and aging from outside their main discipline. Students work closely with their major advisor to develop a curriculum for a minor in Aging Studies that meets the needs of the individual student. The following are examples of courses taken by previous graduate students to meet their research interests in life course and aging:

- KINESIOLOGY: Dimensions of Aging (KIN 7503)
- COMMUNICATION DISORDERS: Early Communicative Intervention (COMD 7384), Auditory Rehabilitation of Adults (COMD 7590)

- PSYCHOLOGY: Introductory and Advanced Statistics (PSYC 4111 and 7111), Psychology of Aging (PSYCH 4072)

Further [information on the graduate minor in Life Course and Aging Studies](#) is available for download (PDF format).

Collaborating Programs

Our Lady of the Lake College Gerontology Program

www.ololcollege.edu/Gerontology.html

Our Lady of the Lake College Long-Term Care Administration Program

http://www.ololcollege.edu/LTC_Administration_NEW04.html

Louisiana State University in Shreveport Institute for Human Services and Public Policy

www.lsus.edu/ihspp

The University of Louisiana at Monroe Institute of Gerontology

<http://www.ulm.edu/gerontology>