

**Office of the President  
California State University, Chico**



**Executive Memorandum EM 18-008**

**March 16, 2018**

**From:** Gayle E. Hutchinson, President

**Subject:** Transfer the Minor in Gerontology and the Certificate in Gerontology from the School of Social Work to Social Science and Special Programs

Upon the recommendation of the Academic Senate and the concurrence of the Provost, I approve the transfer of Minor in Gerontology and the Certificate in Gerontology from the School of Social Work to Social Science and Special Programs. This change will be effective fall 2019.

<b>Policy Title:</b>	EM 18-008 Transfer the Minor in Gerontology and the Certificate in Gerontology from the School of Social Work to Social Science and Special Programs
<b>Contact:</b>	Social Science and Special Programs
<b>Supersedes:</b>	
<b>Revision:</b>	
<b>Enabling Legislation or Executive Order:</b>	

**Proposal to Transfer the California State University, Chico (CSU, Chico)  
Interdisciplinary Gerontology Minor and Certificate from  
the School of Social Work to Social Science and Special Programs**

**Proposal**

This proposal requests that Social Science and Special Programs (SOSC) take responsibility for the management of the Interdisciplinary Gerontology Minor and Certificate. The School of Social Work currently manages the Interdisciplinary Gerontology Minor and Certificate, and has done so since the 2013-14 AY. This proposed transfer is supported by all parties affiliated with the Interdisciplinary Gerontology Minor and Certificate, including students, the School of Social Work, Social Science and Special Programs, the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences' Dean, Dr. Eddie Vela, School of Social Work faculty, and the CSU, Chico Interdisciplinary Center of Aging (ICOA) Board of Directors.

**Background**

The California State University, Chico (CSU, Chico) region of Northern California has a greater percentage of older adults than the rest of California and an equal percentage with the United States (U.S.) and has been viewed as a demonstration area of the demographic shifts that have occurred in the U.S. as the Baby Boomers age. According to current Census data, in the 12-county North State region (equal to the size of Ohio) served by CSU, Chico, 14% of the population is 65 years or older. This is now slightly higher than the rest of California at 13.6% and equal to the U.S. at 14% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017). A decade ago, the CSU, Chico region had a substantially larger population in the 65 years or older demographic, and this meant we were well-placed to better understand the dynamics of this population shift ahead of the rest of the state and nation.

CSU, Chico has a well-earned reputation for providing leadership in emerging fields as exemplified by the University's expanding role around the issues of sustainability and environmental responsibility. Like climate change, the "graying" of America has become another fundamental change in our world. According to the Pew Research Center, approximately 10,000 Americans turn 65 every day, and will continue to do so until 2028. With the assets and unique characteristics of CSU, Chico and its service region, the Interdisciplinary Center on Aging (ICOA) demonstrates the best practices for meeting the challenges and maximizing the opportunities of an aging society. ICOA's response to the accelerated "graying" of the North State is to model innovation and leadership by providing a forum for conducting research in emerging areas of behavioral and social sciences. While its tenure in the School of Social Work has been very positive, after careful review, the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences has chosen to relocate ICOA from the School of Social Work to Social Science and Special Programs, in order to leverage the interdisciplinary nature of both the center, as well as Social Science and Special Programs.

## **Rationale**

The Gerontology Minor and Certificate has been housed in the School of Social Work since the 2012-13 AY, and has been a program at CSU, Chico since 1979.

The Interdisciplinary Gerontology Minor and Certificate was managed by the Department of Health and Community Services for much of its history. Former HCSV Department Chair, Dr. Armeda Ferrini (now Professor Emerita) is a gerontologist, and her expertise led to the creation of what was originally a major, minor, and certificate in Gerontology. As Dr. Ferrini approached retirement, she mentored and recruited Dr. Jean Schuldberg (faculty in the School of Social Work). Dr. Schuldberg is also a gerontologist, and as no other faculty in HCSV possessed a gerontology focus, it was appropriate to move the Gerontology Minor and Certificate to the School of Social Work, under the direction of Dr. Schuldberg, where it has remained for the majority of the time since then.<sup>1</sup> For the period from 1997 to 2003, the minor and certificate resided and were managed by the Social Science and Special Programs, and also continued to be an area of concentration in the Social Science degree.

For much of its history, the Gerontology Minor and Certificate has been managed and housed based on faculty expertise, rather than being managed and housed based on disciplinary logic. Because the minor and certificate are interdisciplinary, and because the College of Behavioral and Social Science has an interdisciplinary unit – Social Science and Special Programs – it makes the most sense to uncouple the Gerontology programs from any one faculty member, and place it within Social Science and Special Programs. Because gerontology is of interest to units outside of BSS, moving the program to Social Science and Special Programs will also help facilitate inter-college input into the program.

Because ICOA moved from the School of Social Work to Social Science and Special Programs in the spring of 2017, moving the Gerontology Minor and Certificate will maintain the synergy between the two. Because ICOA is explicitly an interdisciplinary center, its most logical home is with the interdisciplinary field of Social Science and Special Programs.

*The move requires no additional resources – the management duties of the minor and certificate will be assumed by the Coordinator of Social Science and Special Programs. Advising will be done by existing Social Science and Special Programs advising staff.*

In light of the long and productive history of the field of gerontology in the University, and collaboration with the community, the development of the CSU, Chico ICOA within the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, transferring the Interdisciplinary Gerontology Minor and Certificate from the School of Social Work to Social Science and Special Programs is a natural progression. The community's historic engagement with the University has created a culture of involvement by community agencies. The programs, trainings, minor, and certificate discussed above have provided a springboard to enhance research, service, and programs for our large aging population in the North State.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Gerontology Minor and Certificate moved back to HCSV for a short period (when they hired a gerontologist), and returned to the School of Social Work (when that gerontologist left the university).

*Gerontology on campus has a rich history and although it began as a part of an area agency, it grew into an option and finally a minor and certificate. It is also an area of concentration in the Specialization Studies Option in the Social Science degree. The following timeline illustrates this history, collaboration, and commitment to the Interdisciplinary Gerontology Minor and Certificate within the community, university, and College of Behavioral and Social Sciences.*

### **Community Partnerships**

CSU, Chico Commitment to Lifelong Learning: It is important to note that CSU, Chico has a long history of facilitating lifelong learning and learning-in-retirement through the Elder College, the Osher Life Long Learning Institute, and the 60+ Fee Waiver program. The Elder College has approximately 40 enrollees annually; the Osher Institute boasts a membership of 690 older adults, and 25 to 30 elders utilize the 60+ Fee Waiver annually.

Commitment of Regional Community Service Providers: The North State community service providers in the field of aging comprise a committed and cohesive network that presents opportunities for program development, research, service learning, and internships. This network includes many innovative and valuable organizations: the Elder Services Coordinating Councils; the Butte County Adult Multidisciplinary Team, the County Elder Death Review Team, and Interdisciplinary Hoarding Task Force. This network of gerontology professionals has strong connections to CSU, Chico, particularly with faculty, staff and students in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS). For example, the Dean of the College of BSS is Chair of the *PASSAGES* Board, and the MSW Program Director is a member of the Butte County Adult Services Coordinating Council's steering committee. These relationships have been cultivated over many years by faculty and staff who have collaborated with community service providers to create internships, provide training, develop resources to address gaps in service, and facilitate the continuing education of professionals in the field of aging. These relationships, over time, have created a culture of university-community collaboration around aging issues.

### **Consultation**

The impending retirement of Dr. Schuldburg, and the mounting pressures of housing ICOA in the School of Social Work, led to an assessment of the future direction for both the Gerontology Minor and Certificate, as well as ICOA. Working in consultation with the relevant parties, Dean Vela determined that the most appropriate action would be for Social Science and Special Programs to assume the management of both the Gerontology Minor and Certificate, as well as ICOA.

The faculty of the School of Social Work unanimously agreed with the plan to relocate management of both entities, and the Coordinator of Social Science and Special Programs, Dr. Eugenie Rovai, also concurred with the plan.



---

# M E M O R A N D U M

---

Date: October 12, 2017

From: Eddie Vela   
Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

RE: **Administrative Oversight – Minor and Certificate in Gerontology**

---

## Memorandum of Support

I write to express my full support for moving the Minor and Certificate in Gerontology from the School of Social work to Social Science and Special Programs. The minor and certificate have long embodied a strong interdisciplinary focus, and moving them to Social Science and Special Programs both recognizes, and institutionalizes that focus. The transition results in some minor cost savings, but more importantly, it highlights the contributions of multiple departments to the intellectual rigor of the minor and certificate.

**California State University, Chico**  
Chico, California 95929-0450



Social Science Program  
530-898-5688  
Fax: 530-898-6781

**September 27, 2017**

**I approve the moving of the Gerontology Minor and Certificate to Social Science and Special Programs.**



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eugenie Rovai".

**Dr. Eugenie Rovai, Ph.D**  
**Social Science and Special Programs Coordinator**  
**Geography and Planning Faculty**

California State University, Chico  
Chico, California 95929-0550  
School of Social Work  
530-898-6204  
Fax: 530-898-5574  
<http://www.csuchico.edu/swrk/>



September 20, 2016

To: Matt Thomas

From: David Bassett *David*

RE: Moving Gerontology minor from Social Work to Social Science

The faculty of the School of Social Work voted unanimously in support of the Gerontology minor being relocated to the Department of Social Science. The vote was 9-0.



From the 2017-2018 University Catalog:

## The Minor in Gerontology

### Course Requirements for the Minor: 18 units

The following courses, or their approved transfer equivalents, are required of all candidates for this minor.

**6 courses required:**

HCSV 328	Multicultural Health	3.0	FS	USD
----------	----------------------	-----	----	-----

This course is also offered as MCGS 328 .

HCSV 541	Health in the Later Years	3.0	FA	
----------	---------------------------	-----	----	--

HCSV 543	Social Gerontology	3.0	SP	
----------	--------------------	-----	----	--

PSYC 354	Psychology of Adulthood and Aging	3.0	FA	
----------	-----------------------------------	-----	----	--

RHPM 360	Recreation Therapy for Older Adults	3.0	FS	
----------	-------------------------------------	-----	----	--

*Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in or prior completion of RHPM 200, or faculty permission.*

SWRK 474	Policy and Programs for Older Adults	3.0	SP	
----------	--------------------------------------	-----	----	--

## The Certificate in Gerontology

A student enrolled in the Gerontology Certificate Program must be accepted for University admission and must complete required course work as outlined below. It is not necessary to complete the requirements for a bachelor's degree in order to receive the Certificate in Gerontology. With the permission of the certificate advisor, students may substitute an internship offered by another department for HCSV 389. An overall grade point average of 2.5 is required for the certificate.

### Course Requirements for the Certificate: 21 units

The following courses, or their approved transfer equivalents, are required of all candidates for this certificate.

**7 courses required:**

HCSV 328	Multicultural Health	3.0	FS	USD
----------	----------------------	-----	----	-----

This course is also offered as MCGS 328

HCSV 389	Community Service: Supervision	1.0 -3.0	FS	
----------	--------------------------------	----------	----	--

*Prerequisites: Faculty permission.*

HCSV 389 must be taken for 3 units.

HCSV 541	Health in the Later Years	3.0	FA	
----------	---------------------------	-----	----	--



HCSV 543	Social Gerontology	3.0	SP
PSYC 354	Psychology of Adulthood and Aging	3.0	FA
RHPM 360	Recreation Therapy for Older Adults	3.0	FS
<i>Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in or prior completion of RHPM 200, or faculty permission.</i>			
SWRK 474	Policy and Programs for Older Adults	3.0	SP

Appropriate course substitutions of equivalents or waivers may be granted by the Gerontology program advisor. Please consult the advisor regarding specifics.