

Career Opportunities in Gerontology



What is Gerontology?

Gerontology is the study of aging and its effects on individuals and societies, focusing on physical, mental, emotional, and social changes as people grow older. ¹ In relation to healthcare, gerontology consists of providing medical treatment and offering strategies for disease prevention to older adults. ²

Why Choose a Career in Gerontology? ¹

Demand: The aging population is increasing, leading to a surge in demand for gerontology professionals.

Stability: Gerontology offers stable career paths with opportunities for growth and fulfillment.

Impact: Careers in gerontology provide the chance to positively impact older adults' lives.

Career Paths in Gerontology and Salaries ^{3,4}

Geriatrician

Role: Internal or family medicine physicians with expertise in geriatrics.
Settings: Private practices, long-term care facilities, hospitals, research settings.
Collaboration: Works with interdisciplinary teams to coordinate complex care

\$222,720

Geriatric Physician Assistant

Role: Healthcare professionals working with physicians to diagnose and treat illnesses.
Settings: Private practices, hospitals, clinics

\$215,733

Geriatric Pharmacist

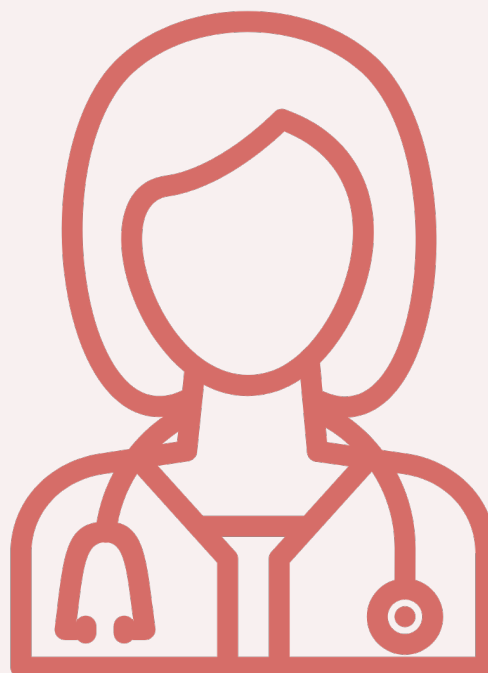
Role: Experts in medication management for older adults.
Settings: Consultative roles in healthcare teams, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living sites

\$146,299

Geriatric Social Worker

Role: Professionals enhancing well-being for older adults through counseling and care coordination.
Settings: Hospitals, aging services organizations, social service agencies

\$83,408



Geriatric Nurse Practitioner

Role: Advanced practice nurses providing direct care, prescribing medications, and managing treatment plans.
Settings: Clinics, hospitals, private practices, research facilities

\$79,577

Educational Requirements ¹



Degrees: Bachelor's or master's in gerontology, social work, psychology, nursing, sociology, public health, or related fields.

Advanced Degrees: Master's or doctorate in gerontology or related disciplines for career advancement.

Practical Experience: Internships, volunteer work, or research opportunities enhance qualifications.

Skills Required in Gerontology ¹

Knowledge-Based Skills

- Understanding of Aging Processes
- Problem-Solving
- Healthcare Communication
- Organizational Skills
- Flexibility

Interpersonal Skills

- Interpersonal Communication
- Compassion
- Patience
- Respect



1. Research.com. (2024). Gerontology Careers: 2024 Guide to Career Paths, Options & Salary.
2. Maryville University. (n.d.). Gerontology Careers.
3. American Geriatrics Society. (n.d.). Careers in Geriatrics.
4. Salary.com. (n.d.). Gerontologist Salary.