

Master of Science in Clinical Gerontology (Part-time)

Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Gerontology (Part-time)

Programme Director

Programme Director: **Professor Jean Woo**

Background

The ageing population calls for structured training in Clinical Gerontology for professionals working in health and social care disciplines.

Why Study Here

Our programme offer multi-disciplinary courses taught by tutors involved in patient care, who have longstanding experience in health services and epidemiological research.

Who Should Apply

Professionals involved in the health care and social care of elderly people.

Aims and Features

Our programmes aim to provide training and theoretical knowledge for health professionals and other workers involved in the care of elderly people in diverse settings. These courses offer students an understanding of the biological, physical, and psychological changes that occur with age, from the cellular level to the whole-body level. Topics on the clinical, demographic, and socioeconomic aspects of gerontology, the concept of successful ageing, and health service organisation will be covered. The programmes will also introduce the principles of epidemiology and statistics, as well as research methodology, in the study of the elderly.

Graduates of the course will have a good understanding of the biological, socioeconomic, epidemiological, and clinical aspects of ageing, as well as different modes of care. They will be able to play a role in making policy decisions regarding the wellbeing of elderly populations, and contribute to the improvements and maintenance of good standards of care in diverse settings. Graduates of the Master's course will also gain experience in carrying out gerontological research.

Programme Structure

Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Gerontology

The Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) programme is a one-year, part-time course that includes 231 hours of lectures and practical experience over 44 weeks. The programme will cover five modules, worth a total of 6.5 units, and students are required to gain some practical experience leading to the write-up of three case studies (10 units).

	Code	Title	Units
Year 1 Term 1	CGE7001	Demography, Sociology, Social Work, and Health Economics	1.0
	CGE7002	Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Research Methodology	1.5
	CGE7202	Practical Experience	4.0
	Subtotal		6.5
Year 1 Term 2	CGE7003	Biology of Ageing and Concepts of Successful Ageing	0.5
	CGE7004	Services for the Older Population	1.0
	CGE7005	Clinical Topics	2.5
	CGE7204	Practical Experience	6.0
	Subtotal		10.0
TOTAL UNITS			16.5

Master of Science in Clinical Gerontology

The Master of Science (MSc) programme is a part-time course covering two years, with two terms per academic year. It consists of a taught component of five modules during the first year, identical to those in the Postgraduate Diploma course, followed by practical experience in the second year. Students taking the MSc must also do a research project.

	Code	Title	Units
Year 1	CGE7001	Demography, Sociology, Social Work, and Health Economics	1.0
	CGE7002	Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Research Methodology	1.5
	CGE7003	Biology of Ageing and Concepts of Successful Ageing	0.5
	CGE7004	Services for the Older Population	1.0
	CGE7005	Clinical Topics	2.5
	CGE7100	Research Project	2.0
	Subtotal		8.5
Year 2	CGE7101	Research Project	2.0
	CGE7102	Research Project	3.0
	CGE7202	Practical Experience	4.0
	CGE7203	Practical Experience	5.0
	CGE7204	Practical Experience	6.0

	CGE7205	Practical Experience	4.0
		Subtotal	24.0
		TOTAL UNITS	32.5

Course Descriptions:-

CGE7001 Demography, Sociology, Social Work, and Health Economics (DSSH) (1.0 Unit)

Demography

- Basic concepts
- Population dynamics
- Population ageing

Sociology and Social Work

- Income maintenance
- Living arrangements and social support
- Family and intergenerational issues
- Social inequalities in health

Health Economics

- Health care financing
- Estimating costs of diseases and disabilities

CGE7002 Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Research Methodology (EBR) (1.5 Units)

Epidemiology

This course will introduce the basic principles of using epidemiology in the study of the elderly.

1. Commonly used parameters examined in epidemiological studies in the elderly:
 - Mortality and morbidity
 - Utilisation of health services
 - Diagnostic information
 - Measures of disability
 - Factors promoting health and sustaining an autonomous lifestyle
 - Marital status, family support, and social network
 - Income, work, and retirement
 - Environmental factors
 - Social welfare
 - Health care organisation and utilisation

2. Applications to the study of health, autonomy, and disability in elderly populations:
 - Defining the question
 - Ways of answering the question
 - Developing a way to measure the phenomenon
 - Summarising the information

- Relating the information to individual and group characteristics and other variables; examination of predisposing or risk factors
- Assessing effects of intervention on outcome measures, and estimating the cost, efficiency, and effectiveness of different forms of care and support
- Using the above information to develop new approaches in understanding the natural history of disability, to devise preventive measures, and to design an integrated system of care

3. Population surveys

Biostatistics

Basic statistical methods in epidemiology will be covered.

- Mean, standard deviation, variance, confidence limits
- Random sampling
- Relative risk, odds ratio, attributable risk
- Univariate, multivariate, and factor analysis
- Prospective data analysis
- Useful statistical computer software programmes

Research Methodology

- Literature search
- Study design
- Ethical considerations and guidelines of good practice
- Writing up research protocols, research papers, and presentation skills

CGE7003 Biology of Ageing and Concepts of Successful Ageing (BSA) (0.5 Units)

Biology of Ageing

- Cellular ageing and theories of ageing
- Age-related physiological changes
- Cognitive changes related to ageing

Successful Ageing

- Concepts and definitions
- Existing knowledge
- Strategies to achieve successful ageing
- Health promotion

CGE7004 Services for the Older Population (SERVICES) (1.0 Units)

Services for the Older Population

- Service providers and their interaction
- Primary, secondary, and tertiary care sectors (community care, hospitals, and residential homes)
- Design of living environments
- Measuring the quality and outcomes of medical care
- Population screening and prevention strategies
- Elderly abuse

Palliative Medicine

- Palliation
- Bereavement
- Living will, assisted death, and euthanasia
- Other ethical issues in the care of the elderly

CGE7005 Clinical Topics (2.5 Units)

Clinical Topics

- Common diseases in the elderly
- Common presentation of diseases
- Prescribing in the elderly
- Nutrition
- Rehabilitation
- Quality of life measurements
- Assessment (in the community; in institutions; using psychosocial assessment tools)
- Cognitive deficits associated with age-related diseases
- Psychogeriatric problems (dementia; depression and suicide in the elderly; other mental health problems)

CGE7100 Research Project (2.0 Units)

During the two-year period of the MSc course, students will carry out a research project in any of the above areas under the supervision of the course directors. The student will spend a minimum of one contact hour per week with the supervisor.

CGE7101 Research Project (2.0 Units)

During the two-year period of the MSc course, students will carry out a research project in any of the above areas under the supervision of the course directors. The student will spend a minimum of one contact hour per week with the supervisor.

CGE7102 Research Project (3.0 Units)

During the two-year period of the MSc course, students will carry out a research project in any of the above areas under the supervision of the course directors. The student will spend a minimum of one contact hour per week with the supervisor.

CGE7202 Practical Experience (4.0 Units)

This module requires work or a work attachment involving the care of the elderly in a medical (including nursing and allied health disciplines) or social setting, for three hours per week over a four-month period. The student must write one case report on the experience.

CGE7203 Practical Experience (5.0 Units)

This module requires work or a work attachment involving the care of the elderly in a medical (including nursing and allied health disciplines) or social setting, for four hours per week over a four-month period. The student must write two case reports on the experience.

CGE7204 Practical Experience (6.0 Units)

This module requires work or a work attachment involving the care of the elderly in a medical (including nursing and allied health disciplines) or social setting, for four hours per week over a five-month period. The student must write two case reports on the experience.

CGE7205 Practical Experience (4.0 Units)

This module requires work or a work attachment involving the care of the elderly in a medical (including nursing and allied health disciplines) or social setting, for three hours per week over a five-month period. The student must write one case report on the experience.

Teaching Format

- Lectures
- Case reports
- Research project related to the candidate's work setting (for MSc course only)

Teaching Faculty

Our teaching staff come from the Faculties of Medicine and Social Sciences of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, as well as from the Hospital Authority. A small number of teachers are from other tertiary institutions.

Duration / Modes of Study / Tuition Fees

Programme	Duration	Mode of Study	Tuition Fee
MSc of Science in Clinical Gerontology	2 years	Part-time	HK\$41,000 per year
PgD in Clinical Gerontology	1 year	Part-time	HK\$42,000

Recognition of the Programmes

The MSc programme has been recognised by the Hong Kong Medical Council as a quotable qualification since 2002.

Course and Unit Exemptions

Graduates of the Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Gerontology can obtain 16 units of modular exemptions from the MSc in Clinical Gerontology. Graduates of the Postgraduate Diploma in Community Geriatrics at The Chinese University of Hong Kong can obtain 14 units of modular exemptions for the same course. However, graduates of the Postgraduate Diploma in Community Geriatrics at the University of Hong Kong may obtain only 14 units of modular exemptions.

Graduation Requirements

Students have to complete all the modules and pass all assessments with a GPA of 2.0 or above, obtaining a grade C or higher. They must also pass a test on IT proficiency before they can graduate. Please see details on our website: <http://www.sitc.cuhk.edu.hk>.

Upon satisfactory completion of the Postgraduate Diploma course, students may apply for the MSc in Clinical Gerontology programme.

How to Apply

Admission Requirements:-

Students should hold a Bachelor's degree in health or social sciences from a recognised university, normally with honours not lower than second class; or have completed a course of study in a tertiary educational institution and obtained professional or similar qualifications equivalent to our honours degree. They must also fulfil the English Language Proficiency Requirement as stipulated by the Graduate School before being considered for admission.

Admission Procedures:-

Local requests for application materials can be made:

- By completing the online request form on the Graduate School website (<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/gss>); or
- In person at the 4/F, School of Public Health, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sha Tin, New Territories, Hong Kong; or
- By sending a stamped (HK\$2.40), self-addressed envelope (A4 size) to the Course Administrator.

Application Deadline:-

April 30, 2009

Administrative Staff

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