

ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY



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DATE: October 7, 2010

TO: Academic Affairs Committee, Academic Senate

FROM: Denise Wilson, Chair, Graduate Curriculum Committee <sup>DW</sup>  
Kimberly Nance, Director of Graduate Studies <sup>KN</sup>

RE: Executive Summary – Gerontology Practice Sequence

The proposed Gerontology Sequence in the Master of Social Work prepares professionals to provide social work services to the elderly, the most rapidly emerging demographic population. The social need for such assistance is acute and increasing: the current Occupational Outlook Handbook reports that at least half of the position openings in the health care and social assistance sectors will be for work with older populations. No new funding or staffing will be required for this sequence, which requires 33 hours for applicants who already possess a BSW from an accredited program. The necessary courses are already offered either in the School of Social Work or in other departments which have agreed to provide seats for these students. In addition to the usual core requirements for the MSW degree, students in this sequence will take SOC/SWK 411 and SWK 479, choose electives focused on gerontology (HSC/FCS 394, FCS 305, SOC 310, PSY 303, and COM 331) and complete their required field practicum in a gerontology-centered setting. It is expected that approximately 5 students in each entering class of 25-30 MSW students will elect to pursue the Gerontology sequence.

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