Department Mission

The mission of M.S. in dementia and aging studies program is to educate from a global, interdisciplinary and human rights perspective, in order to create compassion and understanding for persons with dementia and for elders. The department accomplishes this mission by preparing students for dementia and aging-related careers in teaching, advocacy, research and leadership, so as to empower caregivers and foster autonomy for persons with dementia and for elders.

Degrees Offered

» Dementia and Long-term Care
» Practitioner
» Research

Having a better understanding of aging, and issues associated with it, allows me to be a friend of time. The MSDA degree provides me with skills to appreciate the many elders who are otherwise not given the attention needed. We need to know individuals beyond their labels and diagnoses.

– Marcus Mercer, Sodalis Director of Life Engagement

Students learn about dementia, aging and caregiving to empower caregivers and foster autonomy for elders and persons with dementia.

Department of Sociology

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Why choose Texas State?
In response to the critical need for a competent workforce for the aging population, Texas State created the master of science (M.S.) program in dementia and aging studies. The curriculum emphasizes knowledge of dementia, aging and the person-centered model of care in long-term care, research or an advanced practitioner plans of study.

The first of its kind in the United States, this online program will prepare students to work with elders and caregivers and conduct scholarly research about aging and the aged.

Course Work
The dementia and aging studies graduate program offers three concentrations that emphasize different course work and provide distinct career outcomes.

» The dementia and long-term care concentration combines long-term care and sociology courses to provide a social model of care approach to students aiming to work in extended living environments upon graduation.

» The practitioner concentration offers a wider variety of elective courses related to dementia and aging issues for students interested in dementia-related careers, like health educators or patient advocates.

» The research concentration focuses on advanced research knowledge to accompany the cutting-edge information offered in the core dementia and aging courses, preparing students for doctoral programs.

Faculty
Faculty conduct research on topics including, but not limited to, dementia, cognitive impairment, long-term care workers, caregiving, aging-in-place and dementia-friendly environments. They present their research at national and international conferences, including the Gerontological Society of America, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics World Congress and the Association for Gerontology and Higher Education. Faculty have published books, book chapters and peer-reviewed journal articles in top venues in their field, such as The Gerontologist, Social Science and Medicine and the Journal of Gerontology.

Career Options
Graduates will make an immediate impact in their profession or be able to pursue further graduate studies leading toward research-related careers. Most will pursue advanced management and leadership opportunities in professional settings related to long-term care, hospices and hospitals, while others will develop new approaches to dealing with persons with dementia and dementia-like disorders.

Important Deadlines*
Admissions
Priority Fall: March 1
Fall: July 15
Spring: October 15
Summer: April 15
Summer midterm: June 1
Applications will continue to be considered on a space-available basis after the deadline.

Funding: Scholarships, Fellowships and Assistantships
Applications must be complete by the priority deadline to be considered for funding.

How to Apply
For information regarding admission requirements and submission instructions, please visit:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply

*International applicants can view specific deadlines and requirements at:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/intl_home

For information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/msda