



Gerontological Offerings in Ohio

Prepared by The Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education's Education Committee

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Background and Overview

Since 2007, OAGE has maintained a list of programs in aging in Ohio. In late 2025, the Ohio Department of Aging (AGE) requested that we update and expand our list. We also used this as an opportunity for programs to update their contact information. We went through a multistage process beginning with degree granting programs through programs that have tracks for those who wish to specialize in working with older adults.

The Education Committee began by identifying Ohio-based state and private universities and colleges for degree granting programs in Gerontology, Aging Studies, and Long-Term Care Administration. We then reviewed majors that prepare students to work with older adults. These include Nursing (BSN, Advanced Practice), Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Pathology, and Social Work. We identified those programs that offer aging/gerontology related coursework or concentrations.

Our review identified only one active bachelor's degree in gerontology (Bowling Green State University). Stark State College has an Associate's Degree in Gerontology. There are 8 undergraduate and 4 graduate certificates in Ohio. Both Bowling Green State University and Miami University offer master's degrees in gerontology. Miami University has the only PhD in Social Gerontology in Ohio and University of Akron and Cleveland State University offer a joint PhD in Adult Development and Aging.

Programs that offer official aging related degrees, minors, and certificates are posted on the OAGE website. <https://www.oage.org/aws/OAGE/pt/sp/programs>

NAB Accredited Programs

In addition to the programs above, there are three NAB accredited programs in Long-Term Care Administration. Bowling Green State University has both undergraduate and graduate NAB accredited programs. Kent State University has an undergraduate program which is also NAB accredited, and Youngstown State University has a Master's in Health and Human Services program that is NAB accredited.

Aging-Related Specialization: Medical Programs

Ohio's medical schools also contribute to aging-related education in Ohio. Among Ohio's 7 medical schools, we examined specializations in Geriatric Medicine, Neurology/Neurological Disorders, Palliative Care, and Hospice as they work primarily with older adults. Geriatric specialization is available in four: Case Western Reserve University,

Northeast Ohio Medical University, Ohio State University, and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Neurology/Neurological Disorders is offered at 5 universities: The University of Cincinnati, Northeast Ohio Medical University, The University of Toledo, Ohio State University, and Wright State Boonshoft School of Medicine. Palliative care specialization is offered at Northeast Ohio Medical University and Ohio State University.

Each of the 13 accredited APTA (physical therapy) programs offer both coursework and clinical experience in aging, as required as part of their core accreditation process. Next, we explored Occupational Therapy programs for aging-related content and specialization. There are 9 OT accredited programs; 7 of them had identifiable courses in gerontology/geriatrics (Bowling Green State University, Cleveland State University, University of Findlay, Ohio State University, University of Cincinnati) Walsh University, and Xavier University)

Of the 17 accredited Physician's Associates programs in Ohio, three programs clearly incorporate aging-related specializations (i.e., Case Western Reserve University, Miami University and University of Dayton). The remaining two programs (Cedarville University and Lake Erie College) offer a life-course approach). The remaining do not advertise a specialization.

All 16 BSN programs in Ohio offer courses in nursing across the lifespan or gerontological nursing. In addition, there are 9 Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner programs (AGNP, AHCNP) in Ohio (i.e., Case Western Reserve University, University of Cincinnati, Kent State University, Mount Carmel University, Ohio State University, Ohio University, Ursuline College, Wright State University, Youngstown State University).

Ohio is home to 31 CSWE accredited bachelor's programs (BSW). Most programs are generalist (all age groups). Several programs have requirements/mandates to take aging/gerontology courses (Akron University, Cleveland State University, Ohio University). In addition, Bowling Green State University, Ohio State University encourage their students to complete a track/minor in gerontology)

Of the 11 accredited MSW programs in Ohio, 4 offer a specialization in gerontology/aging (Bowling Green State University, University of Cincinnati, Ohio State University, Wright State University; Cleveland State University encourages their MSW students to earn an (optional) graduate certificate in gerontology).

Conclusion

There are gaps in aging-related education in many programs that directly work with or on behalf of older adults in Ohio. The importance of our demographic shift requires our workforce to be better educated in gerontology and aging related topics from experts in gerontology. OAGE is a way to help achieve this through our expertise in Gerontology both as a stand-alone area of the academe and in the context of expertise in disciplines such as Nursing, Social Work, and Human Development. We also have practitioners with both education and professional expertise to help with workforce development.