

Aging Studies Program
Minor Aging Studies, Minor Aging Sciences, and Master of Gerontology
Program Performance Review 2023-2024
Response to Dean Summary

The Aging Studies Program is grateful for the Dean's time and consideration of our PPR. The program faculty appreciates the critical need for more support for our program and for the gerontology field overall. In addition, we are also happy that the Dean's office recognizes the work that has been done to meet the needs of students interested in becoming aging specialists, whatever their major. We also appreciate the recognition of the Aging Program Faculty to build strong relationships with private donors who provided over \$10,000 for academic scholarships for students doing research or completing their degree with an aging emphasis. Similarly, we appreciate the recognition of our hard work and dedication to secure \$1.6M to promote aging into the STEM fields. With your support, we are certain we will be able to promote aging studies across campus, increase enrollment of aging program minors and master-level students, and expand the program via new hires who have a gerontological specialization.

Opportunities for Development

Among our priorities is the growth of our program. We have recently been approved to offer a new GE course AGNG 363: Advanced Writing with a Focus on Aging, which explores different aspects of professional writing using Aging Studies content. It would be helpful to get support from the Dean's office to promote this to the program and departments whose students need to complete the university writing requirement. We have several ideas we are prepared to put into action to increase enrollment, FTEF's, and course offerings, such as Global Aging. With support from the Dean's office, we are hopeful that prospective graduate students who were rejected from more competitive programs and who are now allowed to change their intended degree program (to the MSG) will increase our enrollment. This year, we have forged stronger communication with the International Studies Office; unfortunately, the barriers to enroll international students remains a challenge; we recently "lost" one accepted student from Africa because he could not secure his visa in time. We remain committed to the "4 + 1" degree program, as well as putting time and energy into partnering with other departments; the current Program Chair would like to offer, with the support of HSS, HHD, and other colleges, as well as the FDC, financial and RTP incentives for faculty across campus to participate in workshops to learn how to "infuse" aging content into their research and teaching. The Program will also need the support of the Dean to learn how to navigate, via Academic Affairs and UEE, the development of multi-disciplinary certificates, such as with African American Studies, Women and Gender Studies, Criminal Justice, Public Health, Public Administration, and various STEM majors. Allocating special consultant monies to a qualified faculty member to work on the "4 + 1" degree and certificates is essential. The Program also needs guidance regarding how to secure funding to implement a bi-annual aging conference on our campus, as well as promote/communicate with other departments about the need to hire faculty with aging expertise.

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Bakersfield / Channel Islands / Chico / Dominguez Hills / East Bay / Fresno / Fullerton / Humboldt / Long Beach / Los Angeles /
Maritime Academy / Monterey Bay / Northridge / Pomona / Sacramento / San Bernardino / San Diego / San Francisco /
San Jose / San Luis Obispo / San Marcos / Sonoma / Stanislaus

In addition to the ideas above, financial support for our Academic Advisor to increase internship sites and community partnerships would benefit our program.

Lastly, we would like to bring to your attention the importance of CSUF being recognized as an Age-Friendly University (AFU), whereby higher education institutions are committed to becoming more age-friendly in their policies and programs. This is essential given that DEI is a major priority for CSUF, yet aging is not often seen as a source of discrimination and bias. Working with the Dean's office and, ideally, the Chancellor's office would transform the CSU system.

The program is grateful for the recommendations provided by both the external reviewers and the Dean's office. We look forward to working with the college, campus leadership, and faculty to find ways to help the program grow and remain competitive with other Universities that offer a minor or degree in Aging Studies.