

**COORDINATING COMMISSION
FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

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PROPOSAL FOR NEW INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Form 92-40

SECTION I

Institution Submitting Proposal: University of Nebraska at Omaha

Title of Program: PhD in Gerontology

CIP Code: 30.1101

Organizational Unit in which program will be located:

Department of Gerontology
College of Public Affairs and Community Service

Name of contact person in the event additional information is needed: Dr. Susan M. Fritz

Telephone: 402-472-5242

Degree, Diploma, or Certificate to be offered (use separate submittal for each level):

PhD in Gerontology

Proposed date to initiate program: When approved by the Coordinating Commission

List the location(s) where this program will be offered: UNO

If the program has a projected ending date, please so indicate:

Date approved by Governing Board: July 22, 2016

(Attach all documents related to this proposal upon which the Governing Board made its decision to approve the proposal.)

Chief Executive Officer's or other Authorized Officer's signature: _____


Susan M. Fritz

TO: The Board of Regents
Academic Affairs

MEETING DATE: July 22, 2016

SUBJECT: Creation of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Gerontology in the Department of Gerontology in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval is requested to create the PhD in Gerontology in the Department of Gerontology in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service at UNO

PREVIOUS ACTION: July 18, 2014 – The Board approved a Bachelor of Science degree in Gerontology in the Department of Gerontology in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service at UNO.

September 14, 2012 – A Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and UNO providing an administrative restructuring that formalized the role of the Human Sciences PhD specializations in Child, Youth and Family Studies and Gerontology in the cooperative PhD program was reported to the Board of Regents.

EXPLANATION: The proposed program is a 90 credit hour doctoral degree focused on the study of the physical, psychological and social aspects of aging. Students enrolling in a doctoral degree program in gerontology will be prepared to conduct research and teach in academic settings, work in the private and non-profit sectors, and engage in entrepreneurial ventures.

Since 1978, the UNO Department of Gerontology has worked collaboratively with the UNL College of Education and Human Sciences in issuing a Ph.D. in Human Sciences with a specialization in gerontology. Because expertise in gerontology has resided with faculty at UNO, UNO faculty members have supervised doctoral students and have comprised the majority of their committees.

With the expansion of the Department of Gerontology, in terms of students, faculty, course offerings and degrees, UNO and UNL propose that establishing the Ph.D. in Gerontology at UNO is in the best interest of students and the University of Nebraska system. Students will no longer have to divide their time and attention between two campuses, but will instead be able to work with one campus in completing their program.

Current students will have the option of continuing with the UNL specialization or seeking the PhD in Gerontology. No new students will be admitted in the Gerontology specialization at UNL.

This proposal has been approved by the Executive Graduate Council and the Council of Academic Officers. This proposal also has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Academic Affairs Committee.

PROGRAM COST: \$0

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Not applicable. No new faculty, staff, or additional expenses will be required.

SPONSORS: B.J. Reed
Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

John Christensen, Chancellor
University of Nebraska at Omaha

RECOMMENDED:



Susan M. Fritz
Executive Vice President and Provost

DATE: June 30, 2016

Degree Proposal
Doctor of Philosophy in Gerontology
Department of Gerontology
College of Public Affairs and Community Service

1. Descriptive Information

- Name of the institution: The University of Nebraska at Omaha
- Name of the proposed program: Doctor of Philosophy in Gerontology
- Degree to be awarded to graduates of the program: Ph.D.
- Other programs offered in this field by this institution: B.S. in Gerontology, M.A. in Social Gerontology, and a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology.
- CIP Code: 30:1101
- Administrative Unit for the program: Department of Gerontology, College of Public Affairs and Community Service, Graduate College
- Delivery site and mode of delivery: On-campus. Courses are also available to students to take online.
- Date approved by governing board:
- Proposed date of initiation: Upon approval.

2. Description and Purpose of the Proposed Program

The proposed program is a 90 credit hour doctoral degree focused on the study of the physical, psychological and social aspects of aging. Students enrolling in a doctoral degree program in gerontology will be prepared to conduct research and teach in academic settings, work in the private and non-profit sectors, and engage in entrepreneurial ventures.

Since 1978, the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) Department of Gerontology has worked collaboratively with the Department of Child, Youth and Family Studies in the College of Education and Human Sciences (formerly known as the Teachers College) at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) in issuing a Ph.D. in Human Sciences with a specialization in gerontology. Because expertise in gerontology has resided with faculty in Omaha, UNO faculty members have supervised doctoral students and have comprised the majority of their committees. Beyond accepting applications for the program, the majority of the labor has resided with UNO.

With the expansion of the Department of Gerontology, in terms of students, faculty, course offerings and degrees - as well as the growth of doctoral programs in general at UNO, and particularly within the College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) - UNO and UNL faculty believe that establishing the Ph.D. in Gerontology at UNO is in the best interest of students and the University of Nebraska system. Students will no longer have to divide their time and attention between two campuses but will instead be able to work with one campus in completing their program. This is a great benefit to current and future students.

The UNO Department of Gerontology has enjoyed a good working relationship with the College of Education and Human Sciences on the UNL campus. The UNL College of Education and Human Sciences is fully aware of the proposal to move the program from Lincoln to Omaha, and is supportive of this decision. As UNL continues to focus on its strengths of child, youth and family studies, this proposal will make the resources of UNL's administrative staff available to focus exclusively on their own students and programming. Once the proposed program is approved, UNL intends to cease offering the specialization in gerontology as part of the Ph.D. in Human Sciences. All gerontology doctoral students will be served through UNO.

Currently there are 16 students pursuing the Ph.D. in Human Sciences with a concentration in Gerontology. With six full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty at the start of the 2015-2016 academic year, this is a robust number. Further, the number of master's degree students in the UNO Gerontology Department has grown to over 50, the highest number at any point in UNO's history. Because applicants to the Ph.D. program frequently have completed the master's program in Gerontology (as is true of many doctoral programs), it is anticipated that the continued interest of the master's degree will fuel further growth in the gerontology doctoral program. The capacity to serve a growing and increasingly diverse student population is strong, with current faculty representing diverse disciplines (in addition to Gerontology, these include Biology, Psychology, Public Administration, and Sociology). Most importantly, the development of the Ph.D. in Gerontology is made possible because of the Programs of Excellence (POE) funding provided to the department to hire a faculty member whose focus is in the biology of aging. This hire completes the department in a way that will allow current and prospective students the benefit of having a complete program of study.

3. Program of Study

Curriculum Overview

The Ph.D. program draws on theory, research, and practice in gerontology and related fields (e.g., Biology, Psychology, Sociology, and Public Policy). Students pursuing the Ph.D. will have the opportunity to create a program of study with the support of their advisor and their Supervisory Committee. Courses are available on the Omaha and Lincoln campuses of the University of Nebraska, as well as online. As is the case today, students will take most or all of their courses on the Omaha campus.

Admission

Admission to the Ph.D. Program in Gerontology would be governed by the requirements specified by the University of Nebraska Omaha's Graduate College. In addition, applicants must also fulfill additional requirements stipulated by the Department of Gerontology that include the following:

1. GRE scores are required. A combined score of at least 300 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the revised GRE is required. Students who demonstrate exceptional academic potential may be considered with a combined GRE score of less than 300.

2. Applicants must provide three letters of reference from individuals who are qualified to comment on the applicant's ability to pursue doctoral-level work. At least two of the three letters must be from academics who have known the applicant as a student.
3. Applicants must provide a statement of intent describing their prior education, relevant professional experience, career goals, and the specific relationship of the Ph.D. degree to the achievement of those goals. If there are particular faculty the applicant is interested in working with, or areas of study that s/he would like to pursue, this information should be included in the statement. Applicants should also indicate in their statement if they wish to be considered for a graduate assistantship, and skills that they may have to assist faculty.
4. Applicants must submit a sample of scholarly writing. This may be a master's or honors thesis, a published article, or any similar manuscript written in a scholarly style.
5. Applicants must provide a current résumé (or vitae).

International Applicants

International students seeking admission to the doctoral program must meet UNO Graduate Studies requirements. In addition, all English-as-a-second-language (ESL) students are required to submit scores from the Internet-based TOEFL. A minimum overall score of 95 on the "Internet TOEFL" is required.

Electronic Submission of Application Materials

All graduate program application materials (i.e., unofficial GRE scores are submitted with the application, if admitted official scores from the testing agency are required; letters of reference; statement of intent; writing sample; and résumé/vitae) must be submitted electronically via the application platform located on the UNO Graduate Studies website. Letters of recommendation are to be uploaded to the website or sent via email to Graduate Studies by the letter writer and not by the applicant.

Admissions Decisions

Decisions regarding admission to the Ph.D. program are made by the Graduate Faculty in the Department of Gerontology. Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis; admitted students enter the program in the following Fall or Spring semester.

Doctoral Program Degree Requirements

The Ph.D. in Gerontology requires the successful completion of a minimum of 90 hours of graduate work beyond the baccalaureate degree that includes coursework and a dissertation. Up to 45 hours of prior graduate-level coursework completed by a student may be counted toward the Ph.D. in Gerontology, provided that this coursework is in a related field and/or is relevant to the study of aging. All transfers of credit must be approved by the student's Supervisory Committee.

Coursework

The Ph.D. in Gerontology curriculum is designed as follows:

Core Courses

Required of all Ph.D. students

- GERO 8356-003 Graduate Seminar in Biology
- GERO 8500 Politics & Aging
- GERO 8730 Dying, Death, & Grieving
- GERO 9110 Applied Social Gerontology
- GERO 9460 Seminar in Aging & Human Behavior

Total Hours 15

Research Courses

Required of all Ph.D. students

- GERO 9020 Graduate Seminar in Statistical Applications

Optional - Students must select two of the following:

- GERO 8020 Introduction to Research Methods
- GERO 8356-001 Structural Equation Modeling
- COMM 8020 Seminar Qualitative Research
- HPER 8030 Research in HPER
- PA 9960 Qualitative Research Methods
- PSYC 9090 Theory of Measurement & Design
- PSYC 9120 Multivariate Statistical Analysis
- PSYC 9650 Research Methods in Psychology
- SOWK 8950 Research Methods in Clinical Practice
- EDPS 936 (UNL) Mixed Methods Research

Total Hours 9

Elective Courses

Optional - Students may select courses in gerontology or in related fields. All courses are 3.0 credit hours, unless otherwise noted. Available courses in Gerontology include:

- GERO 8356-002 Biology of Aging
- GERO 8356-851 Nutrition
- GERO 8476 Mental Health & Aging
- GERO 8506 Legal Aspects of Aging
- GERO 8516 Long-Term Care Administration
- GERO 8556 Health Aspects of Aging
- GERO 8676 Programs & Services for the Elderly
- GERO 8696 Working with Minority Elderly
- GERO 8726 Baby Boomers & 21st Century

- GERO 8856 Hospice & Other Services
- GERO 8920 Special Studies in Gerontology (1-3 credit hours)

Recommended elective courses in related fields include the following:

- BIOL 8010 Seminar in Biology
- BIOL 8136 Molecular Genetics
- BIOL 8146 Cellular Biology
- BIOL 8456 Virology
- HED 8600 Health Behavior
- PA 8010 The Public Economy
- PA 8050 Public Administration & Democracy
- PA 8320 Public Policy Evaluation
- PA 8720 Health Care Finance
- PA 9200 Theories of the Policy Process
- PSYC 8000 Profession of Psychology
- SOWK 8090 Social Welfare Policy
- SOWK 8220 Clinical Social Work with Individuals
- SOWK 8350 Social Work Practice with Families
- SOWK 8260 Social Work Practice with Older Adults
- SOWK 8290 Social Work Practice in Health & Mental Health
- SOC 8010 Sociological Theory I

Total Hours 46

GERO Comprehensive Exam

The objective of the comprehensive exam is a demonstration by students of mastery of completed coursework in the Gerontology Ph.D. program. Doctoral students will select an overall Supervisory Committee of four tenure-track graduate faculty, at least two of whom with full-time appointments in the UNO Department of Gerontology.

Dissertation

The dissertation should demonstrate the student's comprehensive understanding and critical analysis of the literature, methods, and statistics related to their project through scientific writing. The dissertation should develop from the field of gerontology and be approved by the Supervisory Committee. It should show the technical mastery of the field, and advance or modify former knowledge. Each candidate for the degree is required to register for the following course until completion of the degree:

- GERO 9990 Dissertation

Total Hours 20 (minimum)

4. Faculty, Staff and other resources

The courses listed are currently being offered on the Omaha campus, and a limited number of courses are offered online. The Ph.D. candidates also have access to graduate courses outside of the gerontology department that will fulfill the requirements of their program (e.g., Qualitative Research Methods, Research Methods in Psychology, Genetics, Public Policy, etc.). This will be particularly helpful for students who have completed the master's degree in Gerontology.

Expenses

With the addition of a new faculty member through POE funding and graduate assistantship, the faculty are fully prepared to work with new and existing students who have an interest in the field of gerontology. Since its inception in 1978, the doctoral program has relied on existing faculty to oversee the doctoral activities of its students. The Department of Gerontology will continue to rely on existing faculty for this degree. In addition, the department will designate one full-time graduate faculty member, to serve as the chair for the doctoral program. Existing faculty will continue to serve in their roles as committee chairs and members. Additional committee members have been drawn from the graduate faculty within the University of Nebraska system, and the department will continue with this approach to best serve the interests of the students.

Physical facilities: The program will be housed in the Department of Gerontology within the College of Public Affairs and Community Service building on the Omaha campus. The department will seek out additional space, as needed, to support doctoral students working on research projects with faculty.

Instructional equipment and informational resources: The existing resources for the department are sufficient at this time.

Staff support will be drawn from existing personnel.

Applications will be processed through UNO Graduate Studies. Currently, applications for admission are processed by UNL in the College of Education and Human Sciences, Department of Child, Youth and Family Studies, and UNL Graduate Studies.

Budget Projections: Please see attached budget tables.

5. Evidence of Need and Demand:

Need for the program

The aging of the population is upon us. 10,000 people turn 65 years of age and older in the country each day (US Census Bureau). By 2050, the US Census predicts there will be 88 million people 65 years of age and older living in the United States. This is in addition to the aging phenomenon that is taking place worldwide. Training people to educate others about aging is critical for current and future cohorts as well as the overall well-being of the State of Nebraska.

The Department of Gerontology is aware of the need to prepare graduates to work with the aging population and their families in order to conduct research, teach at the university level, and work in private or not-for-profit settings. This is in addition to those who are currently in careers that demand further education in such fields as health care, long-term care administration, and community services. Training professionals to communicate knowledge about the latest in aging research is key. Additionally, having graduates skilled in conducting research will be vital as we work to address the needs and opportunities of an aging population. Preparation of persons to conduct research and teach at the university level requires persons formally trained at the doctoral level.

Currently, there are over 500 institutions of higher education throughout the United States that offer some sort of training in gerontology at the certificate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral level. Preparing educators to provide instruction at these institutions will be necessary now and in the foreseeable future. Of the 21 graduates since 2005, nineteen have found jobs in higher education. One is deceased and the other has moved since graduating in the spring and has not actively sought employment. Many of the gerontology graduates teach at institutions such as Indiana University, Creighton University, Western Illinois University, Immaculata University, Nebraska Wesleyan, Pittsburg State University, the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, in the departments of gerontology as well as related disciplines. Additionally, in the last five to ten years gerontology graduates have grown in their position with institutions such as UNMC, Methodist College and UNL. Having the Ph.D. has allowed them to move from an instructor level to a tenure-track position. In addition to tenure-track positions, the department also has graduates overseeing programs such as EngAge Wellness at the Home Instead Center for Successful Aging on the UNMC campus, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UNL, and the Center for Health Policy and Ethics at Creighton University. Finally, a former Fulbright scholar who had formal training as a gastroenterologist expanded his training to understand the aging process and is now working as an attending physician at a teaching hospital in the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology, Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital, Taiwan. The need for gerontology graduates is illustrated by these high-quality placements. As more businesses see the need to hire people with a background in aging, gerontology graduates will be ideally suited to assume high-level positions.

Anticipated program demand

Since the inception of the doctoral program, 52 candidates have completed the doctoral specialization in gerontology. The initial degree was a Ph.D. in Community and Human Resources with a specialization in gerontology. The other programming at the undergraduate and graduate level continues to demonstrate growth and interest among students. The department believes some of the students who have elected to pursue a master's degree in gerontology will continue their education by applying to the proposed Ph.D. program.

Over the past five years, we have received an average of two to three applications per year. In the last few years, the number of applications has been on the rise with more students from the master's program electing to continue their studies in gerontology that is focused more on

developing research skills. Reasons for selecting the program are varied, including the location of the program and its cost-effectiveness.

Enrollment projections for the Ph.D. in Gerontology:

The enrollment projections are based on current activity and existing faculty available to supervise the work of doctoral students. These numbers also reflect a replacement of 1-2 graduates per year (i.e., as 1-2 students graduate from our program we admit 1-2 new students each year):

AY 2016-2017	16 students in the Ph.D. program
AY 2017-2018	16 students in the Ph.D. program
AY 2018-2019	18 students in the Ph.D. program

The majority of students enrolled in the doctoral program complete their courses on the Omaha campus. In anticipation of moving the degree to Omaha, and to support students requiring financial aid, the department established a dissertation course (GERO 9990) on the UNO campus enabling students to complete all of their coursework in Omaha.

6. Partnerships with Business, Public and Nonprofit Organizations

The Department of Gerontology has a strong and rich relationship with the community through its advisory board, and has relationships with for-profit and not-for-profit aging agencies.

Members of the department’s advisory board include representatives from organizations such as:

- Baird Holm Law Firm
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska
- Home Instead Senior Care (Board Chair)
- Immanuel Communities
- Nebraska Health Care Association
- Suzan Karrer Rohrig, Architectural Firm
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Division of Geriatrics
- Vetter Health Services (ownership of nursing homes in five states)

These relationships have allowed the department to reach out to a larger audience and have enabled the department to secure additional funding for projects such as the online programming and scholarships for students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. These organizations are also prime areas for students to secure employment in the private sector upon graduation, and can serve to assist executive-level staff in setting an agenda for the future that includes the aging of the population.

In addition to the advisory board, relationships with community organizations in Omaha and across the state include:

AARP Nebraska
Aging Task Force (Nebraska Legislature)
Alzheimer's Association of Nebraska
Area Agencies on Aging throughout Nebraska
Area long-term care facilities, assisted and independent living communities, and hospitals.
Home Care Agencies (Non-medical and medical)
Hospice Agencies
Leading Age Nebraska
Nebraska Health Care Association
Nebraska State Unit on Aging

7. Collaboration within the University

The department enjoys a good working relationship with several units on the Omaha, Lincoln and Medical Center campuses. Formalized agreements are in place with UNL's College of Law and the Department of Interior Design in the College of Architecture. Additionally, the department works with UNMC College of Nursing staff and students, as well as the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology at UNMC. The department also anticipates the continuation of the relationship with Child, Youth and Family Studies on the UNL campus with both faculty and staff. As a multi-campus program, the department has solid relationships within the University of Nebraska system, and expects these to continue in the future.

8. Collaboration with Higher Education Institutions External to the University

As the primary provider of gerontological education in Nebraska with a statewide mandate issued by the Board of Regents, the department works with many community colleges and institutions of higher education, including faculty from the University of Iowa, Georgia State University, University of Virginia, University of Washington, University of Michigan, University of Maryland, Georgia Institute of Technology and Westminster College (Missouri). Additionally, our faculty work with others at UNO in sustaining a relationship with Agder University in Norway. The department also has a graduate who is providing gerontological education for Kaohsiung Medical University (teaching) Hospital in Taiwan.

9. Centrality to Role and Mission of the Institution

The three goals of UNO's Strategic Plan drive the development of this graduate degree in gerontology.

Goal 1: UNO will be recognized as a student-centered metropolitan university.

Sub-goal B: UNO students will be prepared for careers and professional responsibilities in an increasingly complex world. As the population ages and becomes more diverse, organizations will need well-prepared managers and directors to successfully lead them into the future.

Goal 2: UNO will be recognized for its academic excellence as a leading metropolitan university. UNO has a reputation for preparing graduates who are well-suited to work with a variety of cohorts in an urban setting. As the aging population becomes increasingly diverse,

students prepared by a metropolitan university have the opportunity to conduct research and gain real-world experience working with a population that represents the future of aging.

Goal 3: UNO will be recognized for its outstanding engagement with the urban, regional, national, and global communities. Through its statewide mandate, the Department of Gerontology has worked in partnership with health care and long-term care professionals, aging service providers, and policy planners in the public and private sectors throughout Nebraska to address the needs of an aging population. The Department of Gerontology is viewed as the leader in gerontological education in Nebraska.

10. Consistency with the University of Nebraska Strategic Framework

As the primary provider of gerontological education with a statewide mandate to serve the State of Nebraska, UNO's Department of Gerontology is ideally positioned to advance the mission and strategic plan of the University of Nebraska system as it works to invest in Nebraska's future. The department accomplishes this investment in a number of ways. The department offers students (1) both in-class and online courses, (2) interdisciplinary endeavors within and across the NU System, (3) fieldwork placement preparing students from all disciplines, and (4) service learning opportunities. The department provides technical assistance for state entities such as the Nebraska State Unit on Aging, the eight Area Agencies on Aging, and the Nebraska Department of Corrections. Through these efforts, the department is addressing the challenges and opportunities of a statewide aging population.

Department of Gerontology efforts to meet NU Strategic Framework Goals

1a. The university will strive to increase affordability and ensure qualified students are not denied access based on economic circumstances.

With the establishment of a doctoral specialization in gerontology in 1978, the department has provided oversight to 52 students who have successfully completed the program. The department has another 16 students, in various phases of their studies, whom are supported and directed in their courses and dissertations. For those who are faced with financial difficulty, the department is able to provide scholarships based on academic achievements to ensure students are able to continue their education in gerontology. The department has also been able to offer a graduate assistantship to doctoral students, as well as teaching opportunities as adjunct faculty members to those wanting to build their portfolio for a teaching position after graduation.

1d. Expand lifelong educational opportunities, including those for non-traditional and transfer students.

As a discipline, gerontology is focused on aging as a lifelong process. Students who pursue a doctorate in this field are not always traditional students, but rather, represent a group of mid-career professionals who see and appreciate the value of education at the doctoral level.

3g. Engage in partnerships with government and the private sector to develop regional economic strengths.

The department has built a reputation for working with state organizations, including the Nebraska Legislature, the Nebraska State Unit on Aging, the Nebraska Department of Corrections, and the eight Area Agencies on Aging. Additionally, the department works with

corporations in the private sector interested in gaining knowledge about the aging process. The department considers this as a growth area for training doctoral students now and in the future.

Goals 5 and 6: Engagement with the state, and accountability to stakeholders.

The contributions of the department are made through course offerings on the Omaha and Lincoln campuses, interdisciplinary endeavors with diverse disciplines such as Criminal Justice, Interior Design, Law, Family Studies, and Social Work. Additionally, collaborative relationships with the Nebraska Legislature, AARP Nebraska, Nebraska State Unit on Aging, Nebraska Department of Corrections, AARP, the Alzheimer’s Association – Midlands and Great Plains Chapter, the UNMC’s Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology, and the UNMC’s College of Nursing have allowed for a stronger presence of the department in meeting its statewide mission set forth by the Board of Regents.

11. Avoidance of Unnecessary Duplication

UNO, having established its Gerontology program 37 years ago, is already recognized as having one of the top programs in the region. This proposal is designed to move the doctoral specialization in gerontology from the Lincoln campus to the Omaha campus, resulting in one campus within the University of Nebraska system offering a Ph.D. in Gerontology with a statewide mandate is to offer gerontological education.

There are twelve universities, including the University of Nebraska, offering a doctoral degree either in gerontology or aging studies in the United States. Other institutions include: University of Connecticut, University of Kansas, University of Kentucky, University of Maryland-Baltimore, University of Massachusetts, Miami University, University of North Dakota, University of North Texas, University of North Carolina – Charlotte, University of Southern California, and the University of South Florida.

12. Consistency with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education: how this program would enhance relevant statewide goals for education

The Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education is (excerpted): “built upon the foundation of existing postsecondary educational institutions within our state, the current and projected demographics of the state, the economic and political realities of the state, and the state’s constitution and statutes.”

The Ph.D. in Gerontology at UNO is fully aligned with the statewide goals for education articulated in this vision statement.

- **Centrality to the role and mission of the institution:** UNO’s mission, as described in the CCPE, is not only to serve as the primary unit within the University of Nebraska system for urban-oriented programs, but also to assume statewide responsibility for programs such as Gerontology. Recognizing the growth in the number of aging persons in Nebraska, preparing people to conduct research and to educate others to work with this population will be critical, not only in Omaha, but throughout the state.

- **Consistency with the University of Nebraska Strategic Framework:** The Ph.D. in Gerontology, and the enhanced capacity it will bring to the department will serve to strengthen existing partnerships within and across the NU system (including the UNL College of Law, UNL College of Architecture, UNMC's Division of Gerontology and Geriatrics, and the UNMC College of Nursing).
- **Evidence of need and demand:** Knowledge about the aging population (described above) is a particularly acute need in UNO's service area. Nebraska and Iowa rank among the 10 states with the highest proportions of residents 65 and older and 85 and older. The need for students trained in the study of aging will continue to increase, particularly over the next two decades, as the members of the baby boom generation become seniors. The consistent interest in the Ph.D. program since 1978 demonstrates the need and demand for the program.
- **Faculty, staff, and other resources:** The Ph.D. in Gerontology at UNO utilizes primarily existing resources, in terms of faculty support, physical facilities, instructional equipment, and informational resources. New expenses, such as an assistant professor to teach courses in the biology of aging, are covered by a recent POE allocation. Additional support is provided through the Dean's office by making funds available for an additional graduate assistant.

June 3, 2016

David Jackson, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Nebraska
Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost
134 Varner Hall
Lincoln, NE 68583-0743

Re: UNO Department of Gerontology: Ph.D. Proposal

Dear Dr. Jackson,

The UNL department of Child, Youth and Family Studies (UNL) has been offering a doctoral Specialization in Gerontology for many years. With the approval of the UNO Gerontology Ph.D. Specialization, we will cease offering this Specialization.

While offered through CYAF, we have been incorporating UNO Gerontology faculty in offering the Specialization. As the UNO Gerontology faculty have been increasing in numbers and expertise over the past several years, they have been increasing their participation in working with the students in this program. In discussions with Dr. Julie Masters, Chair of Gerontology, and in consideration of the CYAF strategic plan, it has become clear that existing and future students will best be served for the Specialization to reside at UNO.

CYAF is prepared to continue offering the Specialization as we have up to this point until current students have completed their degree requirements according to timeframes established by UNL Graduate Studies. However, we anticipate that newly admitted current students (within the past 2 years) will prefer to have their admission "transferred" to UNO and have their degree program requirements managed through the Department of Gerontology. Given that they are already working with these faculty members, this will be the solution that will make the most sense to most students. We recognize that this may require that students apply to the UNO Gerontology Specialization and that UNO will need to determine eligibility for admission and the degree to which completed work will be accepted to meet UNO Gerontology Specialization requirements. We will do everything we can to ease that transition for these students.

Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Bischoff, Ph.D.
Gwendolyn A. Newkirk Professor of Leadership in Child, Youth and Family Studies
Department Chair

**TABLE 1: PROJECTED EXPENSES¹ - NEW INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM
PhD in Gerontology at UNO**

	(FY2017) Year 1 Cost	(FY2018) Year 2 Cost	(FY2019) Year 3 Cost	(FY2020) Year 4 Cost	(FY2021) Year 5 Cost	Total Cost
Personnel						
Faculty						
Professional						
Graduate assistants						
Support staff						
Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating						
General Operating						\$0
Equipment						\$0
New or renovated space						\$0
Library/Information Resources						\$0
Other						\$0
Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

¹ The proposed program will require no new faculty, staff, or other expenses.

**TABLE 2: REVENUE SOURCES FOR PROJECTED EXPENSES - NEW INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM
PhD in Gerontology at UNO**

	FY(2017) Year 1	(FY2018) Year 2	(FY2019) Year 3	(FY2020) Year 4	(FY2021) Year 5	Total
Existing Funds						\$0
Required New Public Funds						\$0
1. State Funds						\$0
2. Local Tax Funds (community colleges)						\$0
Tuition and Fees ¹	\$30,502	\$31,113	\$35,703	\$36,417	\$37,146	\$170,881
Other Funding						\$0
1						\$0
2						\$0
3						\$0
Total Revenue	\$30,502	\$31,113	\$35,703	\$36,417	\$37,146	\$170,881

¹ Tuition for the first academic year is based on 16 doctoral students x 12 credit hours; a 2% tuition increase is anticipated for each year thereafter.
 Year one: \$158.87/credit hour X 12 hours X 16 students.
 Year two: \$162.05/credit hour X 12 hours X 16 students.
 Year three: \$165.29/credit hour X 12 hours X 18 students.
 Year four: \$168.60/credit hour X 12 hours X 18 students.
 Year five: \$171.97/credit hour X 12 hours X 18 students.

July 25, 2016

Dr. Michael Baumgartner
Executive Director
Coordinating Commission for
Postsecondary Education
140 N. 8th Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68509

RECEIVED

JUL 25 2016

Coordinating Commission
for Postsecondary Ed.

Dear Michael:

Enclosed is a copy of the proposal to create a PhD in Gerontology in the Department of Gerontology in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service at UNO. The proposal was approved by the Board of Regents at the July 22, 2016 meeting. Also enclosed is the Proposal for New Instructional Program Form 92-40.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Fritz
Executive Vice President and Provost

Enclosure

c: Chancellor John Christensen
Senior Vice Chancellor B.J. Reed
Dean John Bartle, College of Public Affairs and Community Service
Vice Provost David Jackson