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Contact

For more information on the application process, visit the School of Graduate Studies website:

graduate.mcmaster.ca/academic-services/how-apply.

For additional information regarding the MA program, please contact:

Kristine Espiritu
Graduate Administrative Assistant
espirit@mcmaster.ca or
905.525.9140 x 27035.

PLEASE SEND ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO:

Department of Health, Aging & Society

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healthagingandsociety.mcmaster.ca

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M.A. in Health & Aging



SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of
Health, Aging & Society

Health and Aging

The M.A. in Health and Aging takes a critical social science perspective and an interdisciplinary approach to contemporary and historical topics in the study of health and/or aging. Faculty in the department have diverse disciplinary backgrounds, including sociology, social psychology, human geography, social work, political science, and economics.

The objective of the program is to provide students with knowledge of contemporary debates and societal issues that relate to health and/or aging, and the ability to formulate and convey critical opinions and arguments in relation to them.

The Program

The MA program in Health and Aging provides students with an opportunity to think critically and to develop a theoretical foundation in the social sciences and advance their research and analytical skills.

Students have two options in achieving the MA degree:

One Year Program: This option takes 12 months to complete. It features two terms of course work (six courses) and a major research paper (MRP) completed under the supervision of a faculty member.

Two Year Program: Once accepted into the program, students may apply for the two year degree option that requires course work in the first year (four courses) and a thesis in the second year that is based on original research under the supervision of a faculty member.

The program attracts students from a wide range of backgrounds and offers a broad-based understanding of the key issues and debates in the study of aging and/or health.

Students can choose to focus on health or aging or both in their studies.

HEALTH-FOCUSED STUDIES: SAMPLE PROGRAM

One Year Program:

- HLTH AGE 701: Social Science Perspectives on Health & Aging
- HLTH AGE 714: Qualitative Methods

6 courses

- OR HLTH AGE 716: Quantitative Methods
- HLTH AGE 715: Critical Perspectives in Health Studies
- Two HLTH AGE graduate elective courses
- One graduate elective course
- Major Research Paper

Two Year Program:

- HLTH AGE 701: Social Science Perspectives on Health & Aging
- HLTH AGE 714: Qualitative Methods

4 courses

- OR HLTH AGE 716: Quantitative Methods
- HLTH AGE 715: Critical Perspectives in Health Studies
- One graduate elective course
- Thesis

AGING-FOCUSED STUDIES: SAMPLE PROGRAM

One Year Program:

- HLTH AGE 701: Social Science Perspectives on Health & Aging
- HLTH AGE 714: Qualitative Methods

6 courses

- OR HLTH AGE 716: Quantitative Methods
- HLTH AGE 713: Critical Perspectives on Aging
- Two HLTH AGE graduate elective courses
- One graduate elective course
- Major Research Paper

Two Year Program:

- HLTH AGE 701: Social Science Perspectives on Health & Aging
- HLTH AGE 714: Qualitative Methods

4 courses

- OR HLTH AGE 716: Quantitative Methods
- HLTH AGE 713: Critical Perspectives on Aging
- One graduate elective course
- Thesis

Admissions

Applications will be accepted starting in November. Admission to the MA degree program requires an average of B+ or better, in an undergraduate Honours Bachelor's degree or equivalent, in a related field. The M.A. in Health and Aging encourages students from any academic background to apply provided the student has an interest in the social sciences.

TO APPLY, VISIT:

healthagingandsociety.mcmaster.ca

(Click "Programs").

All applications will be submitted to the Department's Graduate Admissions Committee. You will be expected to include: (1) all academic transcripts sent directly from the issuing institution; (2) two confidential letters of recommendation from instructors most familiar with your academic work; (3) statement of interest (2 pages maximum); (4) a sample of writing; (5) resumé/CV. If English is not your native language, an official copy of your TOEFL score or other evidence of competency in English must also be submitted.

Faculty Research

Faculty members in the Department of Health, Aging & Society are actively involved in a wide range of different research areas, including:

- Indigenous understandings of health, aging & policy
- Media representations of aging, health and illness
- Housing, neighbourhoods and (mental) health
- Equity in health care use and health policy
- Intervention research to improve health equity in urban populations
- Complementary and alternative forms of health care
- The relationship between the arts and health
- Theory development in (mental) health & aging research
- Animal-based interventions for health & well-being
- Health and human resources for an aging population
- Life-course perspectives on aging
- Homelessness, housing and precarious aging
- Age-friendly communities and urban policy for aging
- Fitness cultures in aging

Please feel free to contact individual faculty members about their research (see the list of faculty and their contact information on this brochure).

Students can follow their own empirical research interests throughout their studies.