**MS in Dementia and Aging Studies Degree Requirements for Research Track**

The 33-hour **Research Track** focuses on research skills and dementia-related courses and is for students who want to pursue an academic doctorate in gerontology or aging. It provides advanced research knowledge to accompany the cutting-edge information offered in the core dementia and aging courses. The research track consists of required courses (18 hours), electives (9 hours), and the thesis (minimum 6 hours). Contact the Director of Graduate Programs with questions about the degree plan: Dr. Patti Giuffre ([pg07@txstate.edu](mailto:pg07@txstate.edu)).

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| **Course Number** | **Required Courses: Some, but not all, are offered each semester. Thesis hours can be taken in fall, spring or summer.** | **Semester**  **Completed** |
| SOCI 5351 | Introduction to Dementia |  |
| SOCI 5352 | Dementia and Caregiving |  |
| SOCI 5355 | Social Psychology of Dementia |  |
| SOCI 5383 OR SOCI 5354 | Seminar on Aging OR Theoretical Perspectives on Dementia and Aging |  |
| SOCI 5307 | Seminar in Statistics |  |
| SOCI 5308 or SOCI 5309 | Seminar in Research Methods or  Seminar in Qualitative Research Methods (Note: Students must complete SOCI 5307 before they may take SOCI 5308) |  |
| SOCI 5399A | Thesis (an empirical research project from start to finish): Students cannot sign up for thesis A until they have a chair. Students must take thesis A before they can take thesis B. They cannot take thesis A and B at the same time. |  |
| SOCI 5199B, 5399B , 5699B, or 5999B | Thesis |  |

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| **Course Number** | **Elective Courses: Some, but not all, are offered in fall and spring.** | **Semester completed** |
| CDIS 5380 | Communication and Aging (typically offered in summer only; will not be offered in summer 2018 but will probably be offered in fall 2018) |  |
| SOWK 5328 | Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Aging |  |
| SOCI 5308 | Seminar in Research Methods |  |
| SOCI 5309 | Seminar in Qualitative Research Methods |  |
| SOCI 5318 | Seminar in Advanced Data Applications |  |
| SOCI 5363 | Seminar in Medical Sociology |  |
| SOCI 5357 | Gender and Aging (won’t be offered until Fall 2019 at the earliest) |  |
| SOCI 5361 | Diversity and Aging |  |
| SOCI 5362 | Rural Aging and Dementia |  |
| SOCI 5354 | Theoretical Perspectives in Aging and Dementia |  |
| SOCI 5356 | End of Life |  |
| SOCI 5388I | Clinical Sociology |  |

FAQs

1. The schedules of classes is available under “University Registrar” (see [https://ssb.txstate.edu/prod/bwckschd.p\_disp\_dyn\_sched](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fssb.txstate.edu%2Fprod%2Fbwckschd.p_disp_dyn_sched&data=01%7C01%7Cpg07%40txstate.edu%7C49cf895d5b78433d191108d460be6ecf%7Cb19c134a14c94d4caf65c420f94c8cbb%7C0&sdata=4GtMEHyd1SW8%2B%2F2fixJLTly8%2BDMuFSR6PNJmU8F9yWA%3D&reserved=0)). Register via Catsweb.

 2. Some of your graduate courses require departmental approval. You must contact the appropriate person (see below) with your student ID, name of course, and the CRN (5 digit course code) of the course you want to take. Department approvals do not guarantee you a space in the class; they simply allow you to register for the class. Do NOT delay registration because some courses fill up very fast. Register as soon as registration opens. Departmental approvals are given in the order they are received. Confirmation will be sent once the hold is lifted (no need to send several messages).

For department approvals:

**Sociology course approvals**: Lindy Knowles, [mk34@txstate.edu](mailto:mk34@txstate.edu) or socigrad@txstate.edu

**LTCA course approvals:** Julie Carroll, [jc05@txstate.edu](mailto:jc05@txstate.edu). Any other questions about LTCA courses, including the internship, contact Professor Todd Mackenzie, [mackenzie@txstate.edu](mailto:mackenzie@txstate.edu)

**Social Work course approvals**: Carla Ackerson, [cja59@txstate.edu](mailto:cja59@txstate.edu)

**CDIS course approvals:** Irene Talamantes, [it01@txstate.edu](mailto:it01@txstate.edu), 512-245-2330

3. For now, no Sociology courses are offered in the summer. Typically, 1-2 LTCA courses are offered in the summer.

4. Read the handbook. NEW STUDENTS: Please read the handout about information for new students and view the online orientation on Tracs.

5. A full-time course load is 9 hours at the graduate level. Do not take 9 hours if you are working full-time. Instead, take 1 or 2 classes.

6. Financial aid will not provide funds for classes that are not a part of the degree plan. Ask Dr. Giuffre if you are unsure whether a course counts towards your degree. Follow the template on p. 1 and you should be fine.

7. Another elective that is offered once a year and can be subbed for an elective: PHIL 5360A, Ethics and Dementia. Let Dr. Giuffre know if you enroll in this course so that she can petition to have the course count on your degree audit. For department approval: [philosophy@txstate.edu](mailto:philosophy@txstate.edu).