

## MS in Dementia and Aging Studies:

### Degree Requirements for Dementia and Long-Term Care Track

The 36-hour **Dementia and Long-Term Care Track** is designed for students who are interested in certification as a nursing home administrator. This track consists of required courses (27 hours) and an internship (6 hours, but typically taken twice—in two semesters). With questions about the degree plan, contact Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Kyong Hee Chee ([kc26@txstate.edu](mailto:kc26@txstate.edu)) or Graduate Programs Specialist, Lindy Warner ([mk34@txstate.edu](mailto:mk34@txstate.edu)). Out-of-state and international students cannot enroll in this track.

**All students must take comprehensive exams in their last semester of coursework.** Students who have ONLY comprehensive exams to complete and who have completed all coursework will be required to take a one-hour comprehensive exam course. This is not a course that meets and it does not affect GPA; it simply allows students to access campus resources during their final semester. Because the course is one-hour, it will not be eligible for financial aid. Students in this situation will have to pay out of pocket for the one-hour course. Hence, if possible, we recommend that students complete their comp exams during their last semester of coursework.

**For students who are currently in the long-term care certificate program:** We recommend that you drop the certificate program once you are accepted for the MSDA program. We do not recommend dual enrollment in the long-term care certificate and the MSDA.

**Required Courses** (all of the courses listed below are not offered each semester):

Course Number	Course Name	Hours
SOCI 5351	Introduction to Dementia (fall only)	3
SOCI 5352 OR SOCI 5355	Dementia and Caregiving OR Social Psychology of Dementia	3
SOCI 5383 OR SOCI 5354	Seminar on Aging (typically in fall) OR Theoretical Perspectives in Aging and Dementia (typically in spring)	3
LTCA 5322	Environmental Management in Long-Term Care	3
LTCA 5323	Governance Management in Long-Term Care	3
LTCA 5324	Personnel Management in Long-Term Care	3
LTCA 5325	Resident Care Management in Long-Term Care	3
LTCA 5335	Financial Management in Long-Term Care	3
LTCA 5681	Internship in Long-Term Care (most students need to take this course 2 or 3 times in order to log 1000 hours required by the state to be licensed)	6
LTCA 5681	Internship in Long-Term Care	6

**Completion of this degree does not automatically certify students to be long-term care administrators.** In order to apply to be certified as a long-term care administrator in the state of Texas, students or alumni must refer to the Texas HHS/DADS site and complete the application process on their own: <https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/licensing-credentialing-regulation>.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

**How can I find a list of available courses? And how do I register?** The schedule of classes is available under "University Registrar" (see [https://ssb.txstate.edu/prod/bwckschd.p\\_disp\\_dyn\\_sched](https://ssb.txstate.edu/prod/bwckschd.p_disp_dyn_sched)). To register for classes, you will use Catsweb.

**What if I get a registration error or restriction?** 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. Departmental approvals are given in the order they are received. For department approvals:

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

**Can I take classes over the summer?** For now, no Sociology courses are offered in the summer. Typically, two LTCA courses are offered in the summer.

**Where can I learn more about the program and about my degree?** Read the handbook. NEW STUDENTS: Please read the handout about information for new students and view the online orientation on Tracs.

**How many classes should I take?** A full-time course load is 9 hours (3 classes) at the graduate level. Do not take 3 classes if you are working full-time.

**I'm interested in taking extra courses, will financial aid cover these?** Financial aid will not provide funds for classes that are not a part of the degree plan. Please contact Dr. Giuffre if you have questions about courses that count towards the degree.

**When should I start planning for my required internship, LTCA 5681?** You should contact Professor Mackenzie, LTCA Program Coordinator, [tm25@txstate.edu](mailto:tm25@txstate.edu), when you begin the MSDA AND again early in the semester prior to the semester that you hope to complete the internship.

**Are there any prerequisites for the internship?** Students must take 2 LTC courses from the list below BEFORE they can enroll in the internship course.

**How long does it take to complete the internship requirements?** The internship is typically completed over 2- 3 semesters.

**Where can I complete my internship hours?** It may be anywhere in Texas, with Professor Todd Mackenzie's approval.

**How many hours must I complete to meet the licensing requirement?** To meet the licensing requirement students must log a total of 1000 hours. The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) requires that applicants to complete a 1000 hour administrator-in-training (AIT) internship with a DADS-approved preceptor in a licensed nursing home with a minimum of 60 beds before they take the licensing exam. Once students have decided to seek placement through the university sponsored Administrator in Training (AIT) internship, students **must** seek approval from Professor Mackenzie.