MS in Dementia and Aging Studies (MSDA):
Degree Requirements for Practitioner Track

The 33-hour **Practitioner Track** offers a wide variety of elective courses tailored to the interests of those who wish to become dementia and aging specialists. They can serve in the workplace and in the community as educators, advocates or consultants, applying an innovative and rights-based understanding of issues such as dementia care, aging in place, and hospice, in order to help improve the lived experiences of families and individuals.

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.

Contact Director of the MSDA Program, Dr. Kyong Hee Chee (kc26@txstate.edu), or Graduate Programs Specialist, Lindy Warner (mk34@txstate.edu), with questions about the degree plan.

All of the classes listed below are not offered each semester.

Required Courses (12 hours):

Course Number	Course Name	Hours
SOCI 5351	Introduction to Dementia	3
SOCI 5352	Dementia and Caregiving	3
SOCI 5355	Social Psychology of Dementia	3
SOCI 5383 OR SOCI 5354	Seminar on Aging OR Theoretical Perspectives on Dementia and Aging	3

Electives (21 hours):

Course Number	Course Name	Hours
CDIS 5380	Communication and Aging (typically offered in summer only)	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
PHIL 5360A	Ethics and Dementia	3
SOWK 5328	Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Aging	3
SOCI 5363	Seminar in Medical Sociology	3
SOCI 5357	Gender and Aging	3
SOCI 5361	Aging and Dementia: Racial and Ethnic Minorities	3
SOCI 5362	Rural Aging and Dementia	3
SOCI 5354	Theoretical Perspectives in Aging and Dementia	3
SOCI 5356	End of Life Care	3
SOCI 5371	Directed Study (Needs prior approval from Director)	3
SOCI 5388I	Clinical Sociology: Counseling the Elderly	3

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

How can I find a list of available courses? And how do I register? The schedule of classes is posted under "University Registrar" (see https://ssb.txstate.edu/prod/bwckschd.p_disp_dyn_sched). TO REGISTER: Register via CatsWeb. Find courses in the schedule of classes. Search for Sociology courses (or, for courses outside the major, use that search term), and graduate courses. Graduate courses are 5000 level and above. Undergraduate courses will not count towards your degree.

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. Confirmation will be sent once the hold is lifted (no need to send several messages). **For department approvals, contact:**

> **CDIS courses**, contact Raidah Murshed, Email: r_m256@txstate.edu
>
> **Sociology courses**, contact Lindy Warner, mk34@txstate.edu, or socigrad@txstate.edu
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> **Social Work courses**, refer to: https://www.socialwork.txstate.edu/graduate/msw-social-work-course-override-request.html, "Request to Register for MSW Course" form. When the form is submitted, the MSW Director will review anticipated enrollment for the course and determine whether there is an open seat available. The approval process takes about 10 days.
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> **LTCA courses**, contact Julie Carroll, jc05@txstate.edu (and with questions about LTC courses including the internship, contact Professor Todd MacKenzie, mackenzie@txstate.edu)
>
> **Philosophy courses**, contact Camrie Pipper, cp1292@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 Canvas.

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. You can take 1 or 2 classes each semester. Graduate students must take at least 5 hours in order to be eligible for partial financial aid, and 9 hours in order to be eligible for full financial aid.

I'm interested in taking other courses that are not listed on the degree template. Will financial aid cover these courses? Financial aid will not provide funds for classes that are not a part of the degree plan. Please contact Dr. Chee if you have questions about courses that count towards the degree.