

Abilene Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

A = Approve I = Information Item R = Respond In Writing

Degree Plan(s): Aging Studies Minor

We are proposing two major updates to the Aging Studies minor. First, we would like to move GERO 495 Practicum in Gerontology to the elective menu. Aging Studies is one or two minors that require a practicum experience, and it creates a barrier to students selecting the minor, especially because many majors require an additional practicum experience. We would like to replace GERO 495 with FAM 443 Death and Bereavement, as this course is relevant to both the minor and most major areas of study.

Next, we would like to clean up the elective menu, as some listed courses have not been offered recently, and there are no plans to offer them in the coming years. We would like to remove the following courses: BIOL 448, FAM 443 (moving to required), GERO 437, and KINE 475. And we would like to add the following classes, as they impart useful knowledge when working with aging populations: SOCI 450 Health and Medicine, BIBP 352 Biomedical Ethics, and GERO 495 Practicum in Gerontology (moved from required).

	Campus-Level Academic Review ¹	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Change to a Course Include signatures from all chairs/program directors for cross-listed courses. ¹						
1.	Title (description unchanged)	A	A	A	I	I	I
2.	Description (not affecting content)	A	A	A	I	I	I
3.	Course term(s)	A	I	A	I	I	I
4.	Content (change of course outcomes)	A	A	A	I	I	A
5.	Number of credit hours	A	A	A	A	A	A
6.	Course number within the hundred	A	A	I	I	I	I
7.	Course number beyond the hundred	A	A	A	A	A	A
8.	Prerequisites	A	A	A	I	I	I
9.	Course restriction (e.g., majors only, junior standing)	A	A	A	A	A	A
10.	Level change (U to G or G to U)	A	A	A	A	A	A
11.	Cross list course	A	A	A	A	A	A
12.	Department of record	A	A	A	A	A	A
13.	Open or close a course	A	A	A	A	A	A
	Change to a Degree Plan						
14.	Educational Program — Revise	A	A	A	A	A	A
15.	Educational Program — Adopt/revise admission requirements	A	A	A	A	A	A
16.	GPA — Revise program-required GPA	A	A	A	A	A	A
17.	Minor — Revise	A	A	A	A	A	A

		V	P	U	E	S	D	F	O	S
	Full Review									
	Change to Catalog Information (for Campus)									
18.	General requirements for Bachelor's and Associate Degrees	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
19.	Policies governing academic probation and suspension	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
20.	Requirements for graduating with honors	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
	Change to a Degree Plan									
21.	Educational Program — Add or Discontinue ^{2 3}	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I
22.	Educational Program — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	A	A	I
23.	Minor — Add or Discontinue	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	I
24.	Minor — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	-	A	I
25.	Degree — Add or Discontinue	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I
26.	Degree — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	A	A	I

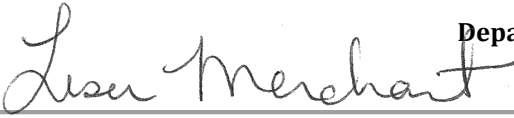
	Change to General Education Requirements for Undergraduates (System)	.	I	E	U	O	G	S	I	S
27.	Change course outcomes of an included course	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	I
28.	Add or drop a required course from the General Education Requirements	A	-	A	-	A	A	A	A	I
29.	Add or drop a course from a menu within the General Education Requirements	A	-	A	-	A	A	-	A	I
30.	Comprehensive revision of General Education Requirements	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I

Notes

² Any change to a cross-listed course requires the signature of both department chairs or program directors overseeing the course to ensure that the courses stay in sync. This includes courses taught at other campuses (e.g. BIBL 101 and BIBO 101).

³ For undergraduate majors, a minimum of 30 hours is required. These programs must have a minimum of 6 elective hours, unless the requirements of external accrediting bodies make it impossible. Master's programs must include a minimum of 30 hours, and doctoral programs must include a minimum of 30 hours beyond the master's.

⁴ When a department/school or dean proposes closing a program, approval routing follows the typical process beginning with the department/school. An administrative proposal by the provost or senior vice president for academic affairs would follow the "provost-proposed" routing on the chart.

	Department/School(s)
	10/20/2025
Chair Signature	Date

Chair/Program Director Signature	Date
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	College Academic Council(s)
	02/12/2026
Chair Signature	Date

Chair Signature	Date
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	Dean(s)
	02/12/2026
Signature	Date

Signature	Date
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	Teacher Education Council
Signature	Date

	Campus Academic Council:
	Abilene Undergraduate or Abilene Graduate
Signature	Date

	Provost
Signature	Date

	University General Education Council
Signature	Date

University Faculty

Abilene Faculty Senate Chair signature

Date

Dallas Faculty Council Chair signature

Date

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Signature

Date

President

Signature

Date

Abilene Christian University

2025-2026 Catalog

Aging Studies Minor (AGST)

Minor Requirements

Aging Studies Core (9 hours)

- [GERO 350 - Sociology of Aging](#) Credit Hours: 3
- [GERO 352 - Adult Development and Aging](#) Credit Hours: 3
- ~~[GERO 455 - Practicum in Gerontology](#) Credit Hours: 3~~ [FAM 443 Death and Bereavement](#), Credit Hours: 3

Aging Studies Electives from the following (9 hours)

- ~~[BIOL 418 - Biology of Aging](#) Credit Hours: 3~~
- [COMM 460 - Health Communication](#) Credit Hours: 3
- [CSD 479 - Programs and Services for Older Adults](#) Credit Hours: 3
- or
- [GERO 479 - Programs and Services for Older Adults](#) Credit Hours: 3
- ~~[FAM 443 - Death and Bereavement](#) Credit Hours: 3~~
- [FAM 454 - Aging and the Family](#) Credit Hours: 3
- ~~[GERO 457 - Ministry with Older Adults](#) Credit Hours: 3~~
- ~~[KINE 475 - Physical Activity, Disease, and Aging](#) Credit Hours: 3~~
- [NURS 320 - Evidence-Based Gerontologic Nursing](#) Credit Hours: 2
- [NUTR 327 - Nutrition Through the Life Cycle](#) Credit Hours: 3
- [FAM 365 - Research Methods in Child and Family Services](#) Credit Hours: 3 (if project in aging)
- or
- [SOCW 415 - Social Research](#) Credit Hours: 3 (if project in aging) (writing-intensive course)
- [SOCW 441 - Social Policy](#) Credit Hours: 3
- or
- [FAM 362 - Families in Society](#) Credit Hours: 3

Total: 18 Credit Hours

SOCI 450 - Health and Medicine, Credit Hours: 3
BIBP 352 - Biomedical Ethics, Credit Hours: 3
GERO 495 - Practicum in Gerontology, Credit Hours: 3



Lisa Merchant <lvm02b@acu.edu>

Letter of Support BIBP 352 to Elective Menu

2 messages

Lisa Merchant <lvm02b@acu.edu>
To: Cliff Barbarick <cab11c@acu.edu>

Sat, Oct 18, 2025 at 1:21 PM

Hi Cliff,

We want to add BIBP 352 Biomedical Ethics to the elective options for the Aging Studies minor. Students must take 3 electives, and the new menu will have 11 courses as options, including BIBP 352. We have 4 minors, though we do hope to grow that number. All in all, I do not expect this to create a large demand for the course. If you are agreeable, please respond via email so that I can add it to our application.

Thank you!

Lisa

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Lisa V. Merchant, PhD, LMFT
MFS Department Chair and MFT Program Director
Department of Marriage and Family Studies
Abilene Christian University
PO BOX 29444
Abilene, TX 79699-9444
Office: 325-674-3724

Achiever--Connectedness--Consistency--Harmony--Restorative

Cliff Barbarick <cab11c@acu.edu>
To: Lisa Merchant <lvm02b@acu.edu>

Mon, Oct 20, 2025 at 8:44 AM

Lisa,

I'm glad that you're adding BIBP 352 as an option for the Aging Studies minor. I think it will be a great fit.

We offer BIBP 352 every semester in part to support the Health Sciences majors that include it as a requirement. As a result, we can easily accommodate the demand created by adding it to the elective menu for the Aging Studies minor. We will continue to monitor student demand for the course and add sections if needed.

Grace and peace,

Cliff

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Dr. Cliff Barbarick
Abilene Christian University
Associate Professor
Chair, Department of Bible, Missions, and Ministry
(325) 674-3767 (office)
[Schedule a meeting with me](#)
<http://blogs.acu.edu/storiesforthesojourn/>

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Lisa Merchant <lvm02b@acu.edu>

Letter of Support to Add SOCI 450 as Aging Elective

3 messages

Lisa Merchant <lvm02b@acu.edu>
To: Lynette Sharp Penny <penyal@acu.edu>

Sat, Oct 18, 2025 at 1:26 PM

Hi Lynette,

We want to add SOCI 450 Health and Medicine to the elective options for the Aging Studies minor. Students must take 3 electives, and the new menu will have 11 courses listed as options, including SOCI 450. We have 4 minors currently, though we hope that number grows. All in all, I do not expect this to create a large demand for the course. I visited with Amanda, and if I remember correctly, she plans to resume teaching this class every other year. If you are agreeable, please respond via email so that I can add it to our approval chart.

Thank you,

Lisa

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Achiever--Connectedness--Consistency--Harmony--Restorative

Lynette Sharp Penny <penyal@acu.edu>
To: Lisa Merchant <lvm02b@acu.edu>

Sat, Oct 18, 2025 at 5:08 PM

Hi Lisa,

We are happy to have you add SOCI 450 (Health and Medicine) to the Aging Studies minor. You may also want to consider adding COMM 460 (Health Communication). Jon Camp teaches this course. I've pasted the course description below. If you have additional questions, please let me know.

Blessings,
Lynette

This course is a survey of communication in the healthcare context. The course explores the role of communication in healthcare delivery, health promotion and media, disease prevention, risk communication, social support, and human subjects protections. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

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Lynette Sharp Penny, Ph.D.
Professor of Communication
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Email: penyal@acu.edu

[Click here](#) to book an appointment with me.

10/20/25, 11:35 AM

myACU Mail - Letter of Support to Add SOCI 450 as Aging Elective

Lisa Merchant <lvm02b@acu.edu>

Sun, Oct 19, 2025 at 9:31 AM

To: Lynette Sharp Peña <penyal@acu.edu>

Thank you, Lynette! Health Communication is actually already on the minor, so you are right that it would be a good fit!

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