UC Berkeley Graduate Certificate in Aging

Goals of the aging certificate program: (1) to provide up-to-date knowledge about biological, physical, and psychosocial changes in later life; (2) to familiarize students with a range of interventions to address the issues that older adults and their families encounter as a result of these changes; (3) to provide an opportunity to develop specialized social work practice skills in working with older adults and their families.

Course Requirements:

- **Anchor Course:**
  Students must complete SOC WEL 210C: Aging Processes (2 units). This course explores the aging process and the experience of aging from physiological, psychological, sociocultural, and phenomenological perspectives.

- **Selective Practice Course:**
  Students must complete one of the following courses in advanced social work practice:
  - SOC WEL 244: Direct Practice in Mental Health Settings (2 units)
  - SOC WEL 245: Direct Practice in Health Settings (2 units)
  - SOC WEL 246: Direct Practice in Aging Settings (2 units)

- **Elective Course:**
  Students must complete at least one additional, professionally relevant course, offered in Social Welfare or other campus units, valued at 2 units or higher. The following courses, or an equivalent course approved by the MSW Curriculum Committee, may be used to satisfy this requirement:
  - SOC WEL 226: Social Policy and Gerontology (2 units)
  - SOC WEL 250M: Death and Dying (2 units)
  - SOC WEL 298: Group Study for Graduate Students (at least 2 units; requires advance approval)
  - PB HLTH C202B: Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Health Status (4 units)
  - PB HLTH 204F: Culture, Public Health Practice, and Eliminating Health Disparities: From Ideas to Action in the 21st Century (3 units)
  - PB HLTH 204G: Research Advances in Health Disparities: Multidisciplinary Perspectives (1-3 units)
  - PB HLTH 216A: Biological Embedding of Social Factors (2 units)
  - PB HLTH 217C: Aging and Public Health (3 units)
  - PB HLTH C217D: Biological and Public Health Aspects of Alzheimer’s Disease (3 units)

- **Field Experience:**
  Students must complete at least 120 hours of field experience with or on behalf of elderly clients. Current MSW students can satisfy the field experience requirement as part of the normal field work hours required for the MSW (SOC WEL 410A&B or 412A&B). Students in other graduate programs can obtain credit for their field work experience by enrolling in one unit of SOC WEL 198: Service Learning in Aging. Students must have completed the anchor course SOC WEL 210C before beginning their field experience, or be taking this course concurrently.