

**USC** Davis  
School of Gerontology



# CAREERS IN AGING



**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**“I have held many positions within the field of gerontology, from direct service to developing educational programs in local government. **The Davis program gave me a wonderful base of knowledge. The connections with faculty have continued to be extremely important.**”**

**Grace Farwell-Granger, M.S. Gerontology**

**“I loved the small classes and personal attention, the fantastic faculty, and the great facilities. Research and papers allowed me to explore and develop areas of interest. I learned how to learn. Now that I’m in a healthcare field, professionals are constantly impressed that I majored in gero. I can’t say enough about USC’s School of Gerontology.”**

**Laura Davis, B.S. Gerontology**

# AFTER USC DAVIS: MANY CAREER CHOICES

A degree in gerontology from the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology opens many doors. Our world-class reputation—bolstered by the largest selection of gerontology degree programs in the world, hands-on training from internationally renowned professors, coveted internships, and connections—makes our graduates sought after by a variety of industries.

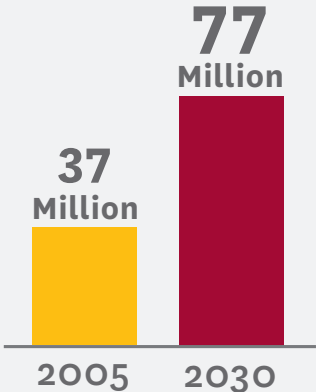
Whatever professional paths our graduates take, a USC Davis degree provides a distinct advantage. Our alumni go on to pursue careers in law, medicine, entrepreneurship, academia, consulting, science, local, state and federal government, business, community and social services, non-profits, marketing, advocacy, housing, healthcare, management, urban planning, and much more.



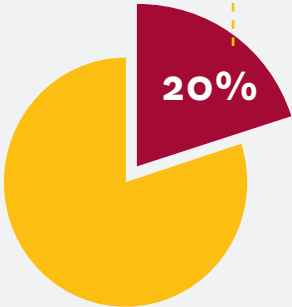
# OPPORTUNITIES IN AN AGING WORLD

Gerontology is a field with infinite career choices now and in the future. Here's why:

## AMERICANS AGE 65+



They will make up 20 percent of the nation's population by 2030.



More than one out of three over the age of 50 will enter old age single (widowed, divorced, or never married). They will need help.



**“As an attorney, I deal with aging-related issues on a daily basis. From contacts to litigation, I am constantly impressed by the applicability of my gerontology education to the matters I handle.”**

**Kim M. Bowman Jr., M.A. Gerontology**



- The U.S. Department of Labor identifies careers in aging as a high growth area over the next decade.
- Every seven seconds, another American turns 50.
- There are 76 million baby boomers, and the oldest are heading toward their 70th birthdays. Many have parents in their 80s, 90s, and beyond as well.

**NEVER HAVE GERONTOLOGISTS BEEN MORE IN DEMAND, NOR HAS OUR WORK BEEN MORE IMPORTANT!**

# FROM USC DAVIS TO THE WORKING WORLD

What can you do with a USC Davis degree? If a recent alumni survey is any indication, the answer is anything! Here are just some of the titles our graduates hold:

- Analyst
- Associate Professor
- Attorney
- Chief Executive Officer
- Chief of Staff
- Chief Strategy Officer
- Clinical Psychologist
- Director of Managed Care
- Entrepreneur
- Health Plan Operations Manager
- Lobbyist
- Motivational Gerontologist
- Navigator/Medical Social Worker
- Non-Profit Consultant
- Pharmacist
- Physical Therapist
- Physician
- President of Real Estate Company
- Protective Services Specialist
- Scientist
- Senior Strategic Policy Advisor
- State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- Transportation Planner

**“The Davis School enhanced my credentials and directly helped me get into medical school. My gerontology training has been a huge benefit with patients.”**

**Dr. Fred Hom, M.S. Gerontology**

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Some of our alumni have gone on to work for the U.S. federal government, the United Nations, and prestigious think tanks. Others have found great niches in private businesses or nonprofit programs and foundations. Take a look at just a sample of the organizations at which our graduates have landed:

- AARP
- Alzheimer's Association
- American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
- Administration on Aging
- Bank of America Merrill Lynch
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield
- Brookdale Senior Living
- California Department of Aging
- City of Los Angeles Department of Aging
- Florida State University
- Harvard University
- Informed Patient Institute
- Jewish Family Services
- Kaiser Permanente
- Los Angeles Department of Community and Senior Services
- Minnesota State University
- National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- National Bureau of Economic Research
- National Institute on Aging
- Social Security Administration
- University of California
- University of Chicago
- University of Kansas
- Veterans Administration

## VENUES

- Academia
- Adult Day Care
- Assisted Living Communities
- Advocacy Groups
- Case Management
- Community organizations
- Counseling
- Elder Law
- Government Agencies
- HMOs
- Hospitals
- Long Term Insurance Companies
- Marketing
- Mental Health
- Nursing Homes
- Pharmaceutical Companies
- Religious Organizations
- Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Transportation



## KARLTON WONG

*Physician*



“My career today would not have been the same without the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology,” says Dr. Karlton Wong. Wong holds a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences and Gerontology and a Master of Science in Gerontology.

A diploma from the USC Keck School of Medicine followed in 2014. He says his gerontology background not only gave him an edge over other applicants for medical school and residency programs but also taught him to probe further as a physician.

“I recognize that practicing medicine is a whole lot more than knowing the science behind disease pathology,” says Wong, who is an internal medicine resident at Los Angeles County-USC Hospital. “It is knowing about your patients entirely—where they grew up, their ethnic



background, their life goals, their social and financial adversities, their family situation.”

Good medicine requires you to recognize that all patients are unique and have special needs, he adds. “You can always treat pneumonia with a simple antibiotic regimen, but the important questions are how will the patient afford the medication, whether they are able to take it by themselves or remember to take it at all, and how will they make it to follow up appointments,” Wong says. “My studies in gerontology made me aware of these issues before I even started medical school.”

While some of Wong’s Davis School classmates also are MDs, others have pursued diverse paths. “Gerontology encompasses a wide range of careers,” Wong says. “The school does a great job mentoring and helping students find what they want to do in life.”



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## CYNTHIA HUTCHINS

*Director of Financial Gerontology*

In her job as a retirement specialist for Merrill Lynch, Cynthia Hutchins had been consistently struck by how this generation's retirement would be unlike all previous generations to date.

These exceptional circumstances fascinated Hutchins, a 30-year veteran of the financial services industry. With full support from her firm's leadership, she decided to expand her expertise on today's aging population with a Master of Arts in Gerontology from USC.

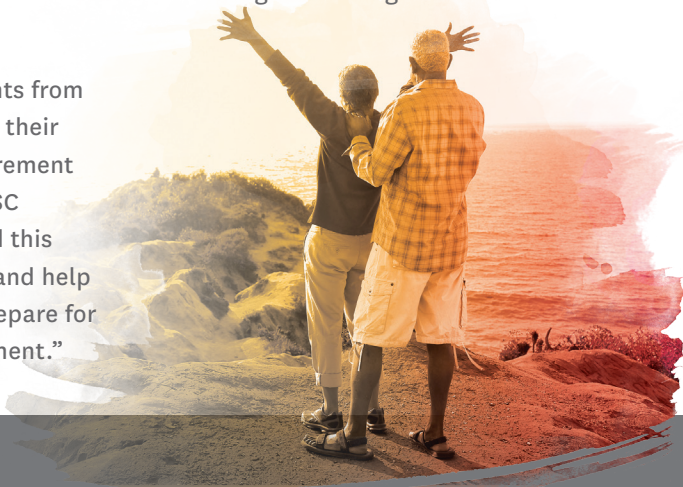
“The financial implications of aging for the Baby Boomers are enormous,” Hutchins said. “First, there is longevity. We are living 20, 30 and 40 years in retirement, while the generation prior approached retirement expecting to live just 10 to 15 years. Then, with benefit and pension plans dwindling to virtual nonexistence, there has been a shift of responsibility from the government or the employer to the individual.”

“I chose the online program because of the reputation of USC and the Davis School of Gerontology,” she said. “I was impressed by the convenience of being able to do the entire program online without receiving any less of the quality of an on-campus education.”

Hutchins’ employer found her newly acquired degree so valuable, Merrill Lynch created a director of financial gerontology position just for her and became the first firm to hire a full-time gerontologist.

Hutchins said she is grateful for her USC education, which has allowed her to lead this effort by consulting the firm’s more than 14,000 financial advisers on gerontological trends and challenges affecting their clients.

“We’re changing the conversation with clients from money accumulated to their goals around their retirement lifestyle,” she said. “USC has enabled me to lead this evolving conversation and help this new generation prepare for a long, fulfilling retirement.”



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## **JOSH JOHNSON**

*International Entrepreneur & CEO*

“I would not have had this opportunity without my masters in aging,” says Josh Johnson, CEO of Union Life Senior Living. Under Johnson’s leadership, the Beijing-based company has built three continuing care retirement communities with dementia care and two rehab hospitals within China.

The company plans to build more care facilities in the rapidly aging nation as well as buy retirement communities in the U.S.

While many Chinese elders live with their families, there is a new need for nursing homes due to greater longevity, more chronic health conditions, and more dementia. In addition, many adult children and their spouses are out of the house all day.



Even if family members are available, “dementia is a disease that can be very difficult to take care of at home,” Johnson says. “We tell families that they’re not disrespecting their parents—we can offer them a higher quality of life.”

Another of Johnson’s roles is helping to develop long-term care insurance in China through his parent company, Union Life Insurance. His company rolled out the country’s first long-term care insurance product in 2014.

“It’s really unique to work here and develop an industry that hadn’t existed,” Johnson says.

Before he found his way to China, Johnson worked as Executive Director of a large retirement community in Southern California. Soon after, he enrolled in the Leonard Davis School online Master of Arts in Gerontology program, completing his master’s degree while continuing his day job.

In Beijing, Johnson now brings a distinctive gerontology perspective to his company.

“During development and financing, I can bring to the table my background and look at the market segments,” he says. “It’s fascinating to be an entrepreneur!”



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## **JOLENE FASSBINDER**

*Non-Profit Foundation  
Program Officer*

As Program Officer for the Archstone Foundation, which provides grants for innovative projects designed to address the needs of older adults, Jolene Fassbinder oversees communications for the organization as well as workforce development and aging in community grant programs.

With the many needs and opportunities she observes through her work with the foundation, she wants to get the word out about the wealth of opportunities in gerontology.

“Gerontology is the new hybrid career,” Fassbinder says. “If you walk out your front door and look around, you will see older people everywhere. There is such a need for people educated in aging that the career opportunities are endless.”

She adds that our aging society has created new needs in many venues, including technology, public health, urban planning, marketing, restaurant and retail businesses, veterinary medicine, housing, human services, and more.

Even before her arrival at the Archstone Foundation, gerontology education enhanced Fassbinder’s work. After receiving a Masters in Communication Management from the USC Annenberg School for

Communications and Journalism and a Master of Science in Gerontology from the USC Davis School, she spent five years as a property manager. There were older tenants in one of her buildings, and another property, a medical building, had elderly patients. With her background, “I could offer a lot of value,” she says.

Fassbinder went on to work for the UCLA Division of Geriatrics, spending nearly a decade educating professionals about the field of aging. She then became the Executive Director of the California Council on Gerontology and Geriatrics, which promotes the well-being of older adults through programs, public policy, and workforce development.

Today, Fassbinder uses her expertise at the Archstone Foundation to help society meet the needs of an aging population. “The Leonard Davis School provided me with the ability to think strategically about planning and beyond today,”

Fassbinder says. “Besides going to the best school in the country for gerontology, what is going to help students get jobs is the USC Leonard Davis School network. I know so many USC grads and I still rely on its faculty. They are still my mentors.”



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