

# Program in Gerontology



## Epidemiology

The Doctoral Program in Gerontology is a dual campus program at UMB and UMBC that began in fall 2001. The program provides an interdisciplinary and integrative perspective on the process of human aging and the experiences of growing old. It acknowledges the complex, dynamic, and bi-directional relationships among individuals and the historical, political, economic, environmental, psychological, social, cultural and biological contexts in which human aging occurs.

## Policy

The goal of the program is to train a new generation of gerontology scholars conversant with interdisciplinary and integrative paradigms and research designs employed to examine the unique, reciprocal, and dynamic nature of aging in context. UMB's six professional schools (dental, law, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and social work) and UMBC's Erickson School and College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences departments (economics, public policy, psychology, and sociology & anthropology) combine to make this mission possible.

## Social, Cultural, and Behavioral Sciences

### **Epidemiology Concentration**

Students gain the fundamental knowledge and skills required to conduct studies on the health and well-being of older populations. Students are prepared to address questions on: the incidence and prevalence of disease and disability and the use of health and long-term care services in older persons; the causes and consequences of these diseases, disabilities and service use; and the identification and evaluation of strategies for preventing disease and disability, and maximizing appropriate use of health care services.

### **Policy Concentration**

The Policy concentration provides students with an understanding of the policy making process and the forces affecting it; the tools and concepts for analyzing policies; and an understanding of how to conduct research designed to inform policy. Students learn to apply this body of knowledge to policy issues in aging, including health and long term care, economic security, work and retirement, and housing.

### **Social, Cultural, and Behavioral Sciences Concentration**

Human aging occurs in a complex sociocultural context. Within the sociocultural context, life is organized through socially constructed and culturally transmitted ideas about aging. While focusing on the sociocultural/behavioral dimensions of aging, students in this concentration develop a biopsychosocial perspective that views human actions and the group, structures and social norms for aging from an integrated, interdisciplinary perspective linking research from the macro-societal level, through group and organizational influences to the individual's behavioral and psychological outcomes.

## Student Profiles



### Quincy Samus

For the past three years, Dr. Samus has worked as a senior research program coordinator in the Department of Psychiatry, Division of Geriatric Psychiatry and Neuropsychiatry at Johns Hopkins University. She manages the Maryland Assisted Living Study, a federally funded longitudinal epidemiological study of the prevalence and incidence of dementia and other psychiatric disorders in the assisted living setting. Quincy became a member of the faculty at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine July 1, 2007.



### Andrea Rubin

Dr. Rubin is a research analyst at the Center for Health Program Development and Management at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Her key responsibilities include analyzing data to determine nursing home and home- and community-based services utilization. She is currently working in collaboration with Maryland Medicaid Program and the Money Follows the Person Medicaid Demonstration Project to implement home- and community-based services to individuals who are living in institutions. Andrea is involved in the development of a framework for state-level analysis of individuals who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.



### Kathryn de Medeiros

Dr. de Medeiros is a research scientist at the Copper Ridge Institute in Sykesville, Maryland, and an instructor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She is recipient of the Brookdale Foundations' Leadership in Aging Fellowship for her work on structured autobiographical writing for older adults, intended to lead to an intervention for those with memory problems. She also developed a measure of neuropsychiatric symptoms in people with dementia for use in clinical trials research, and has studied the social environments of people with dementia. Kate also serves on the board of the Maryland Gerontological Association.

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## For More Information

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