The PhD program in Gerontology at the University of Kentucky, College of Public Health, emphasizes an understanding of the older person as an individual and as part of society. The program is a campus-wide, interdisciplinary research program. The program is designed to help students develop strong analytical, integrative, and transdisciplinary thinking about the physiological and psychological effects of aging on individuals, as well as the influence of environment and society.

Our students come from a variety of academic and professional backgrounds, including laboratory sciences, health care, social sciences, government, and non-profit work; they go on to careers in teaching, service, and as national and international leaders in research on aging.

Individualized course of study is encouraged so each student, with the input of faculty mentors, tailor their course of study to their interests and needs. Core faculty come from backgrounds in geography, occupational therapy, and psychology. Affiliate faculty are drawn from 20 academic departments in seven UK colleges; their interests span fields including social work, health sciences, nursing, engineering, behavioral science, and beyond. With the Graduate Center for Gerontology as a home base, students can expand their scholarly networks across the sixteen colleges located on the UK campus.

Financial support (tuition, health insurance, and stipend) is guaranteed for the first year of the program (for full-time students). Up to four years of funding may be available depending on progress and productivity.

Lexington, Kentucky is a hub of education, culture, and health care. With a thriving local arts scene, a growing local food movement, and access to world-class outdoor recreation, Lexington offers something for everyone. Home to several high-tech and academic employers, and easily accessible via the interstate or Bluegrass Airport, Lexington is a crossroads of innovation. Ranked a Top-30 Place to Live by U.S. News and World Report, the Lexington metro area also boasts an affordable cost of living combined with excellent public services.
Our affiliate faculty work in many disciplines across campus such as: social work, neurology, civil engineering, music therapy, geriatrics, psychology, & rehabilitation sciences.