

EXPLORING CAREERS IN AGING

Early Graduate Student Activities (1st and 2nd Year)

The purpose of these activities is to help students at varying levels of knowledge, skill, and development gain an understanding of and have tools to pursue careers in aging.

The activities are separated by student developmental level, and they are further divided by area of interest at the advanced levels (e.g., practice, research).

They are designed to be used in conjunction with the Exploring Careers in Aging Roadmaps, developed by the American Psychological Association's Committee on Aging.

Please refer to the website: on.apa.org/careers-in-aging

ACTIVITY 3.1**EXPLORING INTERDISCIPLINARY CAREERS IN AGING**

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CONCEPT

As the population in the United States and around the world ages, career opportunities that involve working with older adults are rapidly expanding. Careers in aging today often involve interdisciplinary teams (e.g., teams that might involve psychologists and engineers) or require training in more than one discipline. Many students are unaware of the variety of career opportunities available that can involve a focus on older adults, what these careers entail, the training required, or that these careers often involve working with others from outside of one's own discipline. The purpose of this assignment is to improve students' awareness of the breadth of careers that have the opportunity to specialize in aging and to highlight the interdisciplinary nature of many of these careers.

This assignment has two parts. First, students will research how aging intersects with a variety of interdisciplinary career options. Then students will search for real job postings and report on typical requirements for those career opportunities (educational attainment, experience, etc.).

The product of this activity could be either a paper, a presentation, or a report of a group discussion. This activity could be completed in classes of varying sizes, and done in person or online. Some sharing of results from different students, whether in an in-class discussion or online discussion board, will help students learn from the experiences of others.

MATERIALS

1. Resources for Interdisciplinary Career Possibilities
on.apa.org/aging-resources-interdisciplinary
2. Sample career questions:
 - a. What are two career paths from the *Resources for Interdisciplinary Career Possibilities* web page that are appealing to you, what do these careers involve, and how does aging intersect with these career paths?
 - b. For the career paths above, and using the Roadmap and other sources, what types of expertise are needed for these career paths?
 - c. What other professions do individuals in these career paths interact with, and how can these professionals work together to support older adults?
 - d. Using online resources, find a job posting that matches or closely matches the career paths selected for this assignment. Summarize this posting, including job requirements.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Students should be alerted that the Roadmap web pages include resources for exploring their preferences for careers that involve older adults, and that many of these career options involve one or more disciplines working together.
2. The instructor can decide the parameters of the assignment based on the size and nature of their class. This could be an individual assignment or group activity.
3. Students should be instructed to answer the above questions using the Roadmap web pages and other professional resources they find online.
4. Students can be asked to provide responses as a written report, on-line discussion post, or as a presentation. Short presentations in class can allow students to benefit from the research of others in the class.