

Year 1 (2026) - FAR Implementation Report

Master of Applied Gerontology

Graduate Program

(reviewed 2024/25)

Recommendation #1: Increase the visibility of Gerontology at Brock University.

Supporting/clarifying text: There are many strengths at Brock related to Gerontology (e.g., experienced and effective Program Director and Coordinator, two faculty hired to support the MAG program, and a minor in Gerontology), there are many ways that Gerontology could become more visible. This could include creating a Gerontology Department, a Gerontology Research Centre, and/or cross- appointing faculty in Gerontology.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted. The Committee believes that the Program, in consultation with the Dean’s office, Marketing & Communications and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs, is best positioned to determine appropriate strategies to increase the visibility of Gerontology at Brock.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program/Deans
Responsible for implementation:	Program/Deans
Timeline:	Dean of Applied Health Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2025-26.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Short action statements for each				
Action #1 Update all recruitment materials.	GPD / GPC	O		
Action #2 Met with Dean of Applied Health Sciences, Marketing and Communications and FGSPA to discuss ways to increase the visibility of the MAG program (internally and externally).	GPD	C		
Action #3 Re-establish an undergraduate minor in gerontology.	FAHS Associate Dean, UG Studies and Teaching / MAG Program Committee	T		

*On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)

Comments 2026:

Internal and external marketing of the MAG program continues to be an important recruitment strategy. We have refreshed all recruitment materials including our website, and print materials used at graduate fairs and have strengthened our presence across FAHS social media channels. Additionally, in light of new Brock degree architecture, re-establishing an undergraduate minor in gerontology will serve as a pathway for students to build knowledge and experience in the field, while sparking interest in the MAG program. MAG faculty are meeting with the FAHS Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies and Teaching to brainstorm a path for the minor on April 16 and 28, 2026.

Recommendation #2: Consider adding a part-time option.
<i>Supporting/clarifying text: Adding a part-time option could help to increase enrollment in the degree while also catering to mature/non-traditional students.</i>

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted. The Committee understands that that the Program will undertake discussions with the Dean’s offices to explore the feasibility of adding a part- time option.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program/Deans
Responsible for implementation:	Program/Deans
Timeline:	Dean of Applied Health Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2025-26.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Short action statements for each				
Action #1 Add a part-time option in the MAG program.	FGSPA / MAG Program Committee	C		

*On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)

Comments 2026:

Working with colleagues in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs, this recommendation has been fully implemented. Updates to all promotional materials have been made to reflect this change.

Recommendation #3: Collaboratively review the courses' content, continuity, and assessment schedules.

Supporting/clarifying text: It is a strength that program committee members collaboratively review the courses associated with the program. It would be advantageous if all faculty regularly teaching Gerontology courses participate in this process (e.g. annual curriculum retreat).

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee expects that the Program will move forward as appropriate, working with CPI, to review the courses' content, continuity, and assessment schedules.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving: Program
 Responsible for resources: Program/Deans
 Responsible for implementation: Program
 Timeline: Dean of Applied Health Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2025-26.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Short action statements for each				
Action #1 Organize a CPI-led curriculum workshop to address ways to review course content, continuity and assessments.	Program Committee	C		
Action #2 All teaching faculty in the MAG program will be invited to our annual curriculum retreat moving forward.	GPD / GPC	O		

*On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)

Comments 2026:

Faculty and staff met for a curriculum meeting, organized by CPI in February 2026. The goal of the meeting was to collaboratively review course content and assessments in service of curriculum-related recommendations from the Final Assessment Report (FAR). A report was generated from the meeting and will be discussed at our program retreat in May 2026.

Recommendation #4: Include a course that focuses on health services for older adults and make it a required course to complement GERO 5P14 Community Services for Older Adults. Both courses should be required.

Supporting/clarifying text: All students in the program would benefit from a strong understanding of the array of services available to support older adults from community-based services to residential care, acute and palliative care. This would also help to provide an overview of potential practicum settings for students and identify potential future settings for employment.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted for consideration. The Committee understands that that the Program will undertake discussions with the Dean’s offices to explore ways to offer a course on health services for older adults.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program/Deans
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Applied Health Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2025-26.

Actions Short action statements for each	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Rename ‘Community Services for Older Adults’ (GERO 5P14) to ‘Community and Health Services for Older Adults’.	Program committee	T		
Action #2 Require GERO 5P14 for all students.	Program Committee	T		

*On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)

Comments 2026:

After discussions among our program committee, we will be moving ahead with a revised title and scope of an existing course (GERO 5P14) to incorporate content specific to health services. As discussed at our program meeting in February 2026, incorporating health services is a natural extension of the current scope of GERO 5P14. This change will be implemented for students entering the program in September 2027.

Recommendation #5: Combine GERO 5P15 and GERO 5P13 into one course Professional Practice in Aging.

Supporting/clarifying text: While preparing students for professional practice is important in this applied master’s program, we identified that the following courses could be combined into one: GERO 5P15: Introduction to Interprofessional Practice, GERO 5P13: Advanced Communications and Aging. Professional requirements and content could be incorporated into this course (e.g. Gentle Persuasive Approaches for working people with dementia).

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted for consideration. The Committee expects that the Program will investigate combining courses as part of a larger curriculum review. Noting that this recommendation is linked to #4.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program/Deans
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Applied Health Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2025-26.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Short action statements for each				
Action #1 Map content in GERO 5P13 and 5P15 to identify gaps and overlap with each other.	Program Committee / CPI	C		
Action #2 Discuss possibility of removing GERO 5P13.	Program Committee	T		

*On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)

Comments 2026:

We will continue discussions on this recommendation at our program retreat in May 2026. Initial conversations at the CPI-led curriculum meeting in February 2026 were productive and provided strategies to incorporate communications content throughout other MAG courses, thereby freeing up 0.5 credit (which allows 5P14 to be required without sacrificing student flexibility – see Recommendation #4 above).

Recommendation #6: Increase course content on 1) legal issues, policy, and advocacy for older adults 2) basic physiological processes of aging, 3) elder abuse and violence in later life, 4) palliative care and physiological processes of dying.

Supporting/clarifying text: These topics are covered to some extent in existing courses, (e.g., Current Issues in Gerontology, The Process of Aging, Death and Dying in Later Life), these important topics could be expanded in current courses or possibly a new course could be created (e.g., Legal, policy and advocacy).

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted. The Committee believes that the Program, in consultation with the Deans, is best positioned to explore ways to integrate the four noted areas across multiple required courses.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving: Program
 Responsible for resources: Program/Deans
 Responsible for implementation: Program
 Timeline: Dean of Applied Health Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2025-26.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Short action statements for each				
Action #1 Rename 'Process of Aging' (GERO 5P88) to 'Physiology of Aging' to better reflect content.	Program Committee	T		
Action #2 Increase content on legal issues, policy, advocacy and elder abuse in GERO 5P02.	Program Committee	T		
Action #3 Increase content on palliative care and physiological processes of dying in GERO 5P87.	Program Committee	T		

*On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)

Comments 2026:

In February 2026, CPI led a curriculum review to map the above content across our existing curriculum. As a result, we plan on re-naming GERO 5P88 from 'Process of Aging' to 'Physiology of Aging' to better reflect its content. Insights from this mapping exercise led to some potential changes including: more content around legal issues, policy, advocacy, and elder abuse in GERO 5P02 and more emphasis on palliative care and physiological processes of dying in GERO 5P87. We will continue to discuss these proposed changes at our program retreat in May 2026.

Recommendation #7: Review the ICER [Intergenerational Community-Engaged Residency] Award conditions or requirements.

Supporting/clarifying text: This is an innovative opportunity we feel is beneficial for students, residents and staff. It requires many hours in exchange for subsidized housing for the student. Consider reducing the amount of hours required or allow this experience to be counted as an elective in the program.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted. The Committee expects that the Program will review the ICER Award conditions/requirements and is best positioned to determine appropriate strategies to move forward on this issue.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving: Program
 Responsible for resources: Program/Dean
 Responsible for implementation: Program
 Timeline: Dean of Applied Health Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2025-26.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Short action statements for each				
Action #1 Implemented a process for the applied work associated with the ICER Award to be recognized toward program degree requirements.	Program Committee	C		

*On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)

Comments 2026:

Effective 2025, the ICER award recipient has enrolled in a graduate level directed study (AHSC 5P60) which has contributed toward their degree requirements.

Recommendation #8: The program committee may wish to reconsider the need for a background in research methods as a prerequisite to program admission.

Supporting/clarifying text: There was a gap in admission requirements to ensure that students have some background in research and research methods (particularly statistics/quantitative research). While we understand that this is an applied professional type program, it is critical for students to learn how to assess and judge research.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted. The Committee understands that the recommendation is presently under review by the Program and additional curriculum changes may be implemented as a result.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program/Dean
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Applied Health Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2025-26.

Actions Short action statements for each	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Require one of the two existing research courses (GERO 5P89 or GERO 5P11) and move the other course (GERO 5P89 or 5P11) to our list of approved electives.	Program Committee	T		

*On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)

Comments 2026:

We agree that the ability to critically assess and judge research is essential and ensure our students develop these skills and competencies within the program itself. At our CPI-led curriculum workshop (February 2026), the program committee proposed requiring *Research Literacy in Applied Gerontological Practice* (GERO 5P89) or *Theory and Practice of Health Program Planning and Evaluation* (GERO 5P11) and moving the other course to our list of approved electives. We will discuss this recommendation in greater detail at our program retreat in May 2026 with the goal of submitting any relevant academic changes in time for curriculum changes.