LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Dual-Title Ph.D. Degree:
  Communication Studies and Gerontology
  Psychology and Gerontology
  Sociology and Gerontology

Departmental letters from Communication Studies, Psychology, and Sociology
To: David Ekerdt  
Director, Gerontology Doctoral Program  
Gerontology Center  
3090 Dole HDC  

From: Beth Innocenti  
Chair, Department of Communication Studies  

Re: Dual-title degree with Gerontology  

Date: 23 April 2010  

The proposal for a dual-title Ph.D. degree with Gerontology was discussed by departmental faculty at our meeting of 21 April 2010, and they unanimously and enthusiastically voted to express support for the concept.  

As proposed, it seems feasible for motivated Ph.D. students to fulfill requirements for the dual-title option within a reasonable period of time. Drs. Mary Lee Hummert and Yan Bing Zhang, among others, would welcome an opportunity to participate in this. Students interested in Interpersonal Communication are among those for whom this would seem especially attractive.  

Should the university establish such an option, we would attempt to develop a dual title Ph.D. between our department and Gerontology. We look forward to working to develop this option when guidelines for it become available.
April 15, 2010

David Ekerdt
Director, Gerontology Doctoral Program
Gerontology Center
3090 Dole HDC

Hello David,

Please accept this letter of support for the proposal to establish a “dual-title Ph.D. degree” between Psychology and Gerontology. Our departmental faculty, at our meeting on April 12, discussed the proposal and the faculty voted unanimously to express support for the concept. Thus, the psychology department supports the idea of the dual-title degree in general and we particularly see a connection with Gerontology as a good example of the kind of dual-title degree that we would like to offer. As proposed, it seems feasible for motivated Ph.D. students to fulfill requirements for the dual-title option within a reasonable period of time. Also certain faculty and students in our department would welcome an opportunity to participate in this, including Dr. David Johnson, Dr. Susan Kemper, and Dr. Paul Atchley. This would seem especially attractive for students in our Developmental, Cognitive, and Social programs. Should the university establish such an option, we would attempt to develop a dual title Ph.D. between our department and Gerontology and we’re looking forward to working to develop this option when guidelines become available.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ruth Ann Atchley
Department Chairperson
Department of Psychology
April 21, 2010

Professor David Ekerdt
Director, Gerontology Doctoral Program
Gerontology Center
3090 Dole HDC

Dear David:

I write to convey the support and endorsement of the Department of Sociology for the proposal to establish a "dual-title Ph.D. degree" between Sociology and Gerontology. The proposal was discussed by sociology departmental faculty at our meeting of April 13, and they voted unanimously in support of the concept.

As you know, our department has for a number of years cross-listed several substantive courses as well as the Gerontology Proseminar. Moreover, our two doctoral programs already have faculty in common including yourself and Dr. LaPierre. Other faculty with research agendas in health and medical sociology such Drs. Hill and Zimmerman might be able to play a role in the dual-title option as well. And as I understand the proposal, it seems feasible for motivated Ph.D. students to fulfill requirements for the dual-title option within a reasonable period of time.

In sum, should the university establish such an option, we would attempt to develop a dual title Ph.D. between our department and Gerontology. We look forward to working to develop this option when guidelines for it become available.

Sincerely,

William G. Staples
Professor and Chair