

# Journal of Gerontology: PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

## General Information and Instructions to Authors

### *Online manuscript submission required.*

#### **Note instructions for online manuscript submission and peer review, manuscript length requirements, and certifications forms.**

THE JOURNAL OF GERONTOLOGY: PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES publishes articles on adulthood and old age with clear implications for theory or methods relevant to advancing the psychological science of aging, including clinical, developmental, experimental, and social aspects. Appropriate topics include, but are not limited to, attitudes, cognition, educational gerontology, emotion, health psychology, industrial gerontology, interpersonal relations, neuropsychology, perception, personality, physiological psychology, and sensation. Manuscripts reporting work that relates behavioral aging to neighboring disciplines are also appropriate. The Journal publishes four types of articles: 1) articles reporting original research; 2) brief reports; 3) invited reviews of cutting-edge research (New Directions in Aging Research); 4) theoretical or methodological contributions. See word and page limitations below. All submissions are peer-reviewed, with final decisions made by the Editor. Manuscripts should be submitted according to the instructions outlined below to <http://jgps.alltrack.net> or by mail to Thomas M. Hess, PhD, Editor, *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, Department of Psychology, Box 7801, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7801. E-mail: [jg\\_psychsci@ncsu.edu](mailto:jg_psychsci@ncsu.edu). **If online submission is impossible, an alternative submission strategy can be arranged in advance with the editor.**

### 1. Manuscript Preparation

Use the 5th edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (2001) for formatting of all manuscripts.

- a. *Online submission and reviewing.* Manuscripts should be submitted via the Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences website, [jgps.alltrack.net](http://jgps.alltrack.net). Authors will set up an account through the website which will be used to upload files as new submissions. Authors will also be able to log on to the website and check on the status of submissions. When setting up the account, the corresponding author will answer a series of questions that were previously addressed with the certifications pages. Those questions must be answered in order for the submission to be considered. Please contact [jg\\_psychsci@ncsu.edu](mailto:jg_psychsci@ncsu.edu) with any questions.
- b. *Preparing the manuscript.* Manuscripts should be double spaced, including references and tables, using at least 1" margins. All manuscripts must include an abstract. Number pages consecutively beginning with the title page, with a page header and a running head of no more than 50 characters.
- c. *Title page.* A title page should include the title of the manuscript, the author's full name, and the author's institution. A short running head not to exceed 50 letters and spaces should be placed at the foot of the title page.
- d. *Abstract.* A one-paragraph abstract not exceeding 960 characters and spaces (approximately 120 words) should be typed, double spaced, on a separate page. The abstract should state the purpose of the study, basic procedures used (study participants or experimental animals and observational or analytical methods), principal findings, and conclusions.
- e. *Text.* The text of research articles should be divided into major sections with the headings Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion. Articles may require subheadings within sections to clarify their content. The discussion section may include conclusions derived from the study and supported by the data. While full explication of a study is desirable, conciseness of expression is imperative. Sexist or ageist use of language should be avoided.
- f. *Text references.* References in the text are shown by citing in parentheses the author's surname and/or the year of publication [E.g., "A recent study (Jones, 1987) shows, or Jones (1987) has shown]. For more detailed instructions see <http://www.geron.org/journals/psinst.html> and the *APA Publication Manual, 5th ed.*
- g. *Reference list.* Type double spaced and arrange alphabetically by author's surname; do not number. The reference list includes only references cited in the text and should generally not exceed 50 entries for original research and theoretical/methodological articles, 30 for brief reports, and 40 for New Directions in Aging Research articles (see length requirements below). Do not include references to private communications.
- h. *Footnotes.* An author footnote with each author's name, title, affiliation and address, source of research support, and other acknowledgments should be placed on a separate page following the references. Please indicate where correspondence should be addressed. Reference footnotes should not be used. Content footnotes should be numbered and placed on a separate page before the Tables.
- i. *Tables.* Each table should be typed double spaced on a separate sheet. Tables should be numbered consecutively and have a brief title. General notes to a table are typed immediately below the table. Specific notes are referenced by superscript letters (a,b,c,...), arranged alphabetically by their superscripts. Asterisks are used only to indicate the probability levels of tests of significance.
- j. *Illustrations.* Each figure must be provided by the author. One glossy or laser print and two copies should be provided for each graph and drawing. Color photos are at the expense of the author. Sharp, laser printed or

glossy prints are required for high-quality reproduction. Figures must be professionally lettered in a sans-serif type (e.g., Univers or Helvetica) or from a laser printer. Typewritten/dot matrix lettering is not acceptable. Letters should be of sufficient size that, when reduced for publication, they will be legible.

- k. *Captions for illustrations and figures.* Type captions double spaced on a separate page with numbers corresponding to the illustrations. Captions should explain the scale used in the figure.
- l. *Author anonymity.* Anonymous review is available on request. This should be indicated on the cover letter and designated in the submission process. Manuscripts, in this case, should be prepared to conceal the identity of the author(s). The cover page and footnotes that identify author(s) should be omitted. Manuscripts not prepared in this manner will receive open review.
- m. Other than as specified above, manuscripts should be prepared according to the 5th edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (2001) obtainable from APA, 750 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20002-4242.

### 2. Types of Articles

All articles should use 12 point, New Times Roman font. A word count should appear on the last page of the manuscript before the references.

- a. *Original Research Reports.* The text of manuscripts reporting empirical studies should not exceed 5,000 words, and there should be no more than 10 pages of references, tables, figures or illustrations.
- b. *Brief Reports.* The text of manuscripts should not exceed 2000 words, and there should be no more than 3 pages of references, tables, figures, or illustrations.
- c. *New Directions in Aging Research.* These articles are usually invited by the Editor and undergo peer review. The goal is an integrative presentation of findings on a cutting-edge topic. The text of manuscripts should not exceed 4000 words, and there should be no more than 6 pages of references, tables, figures, or illustrations.
- d. *Theoretical or Methodological Articles.* Theoretical papers must include a novel integration and critical analysis of existing views in a specific area that has not been reviewed elsewhere, as well as proposed resolution(s) of controversial positions to advance the field. Methodological contributions should present innovative methods for the study of adult development and aging, which should be supported with examples based upon empirical data if possible. The text of manuscripts should not exceed 5000 words, and there should be no more than 10 pages of references, tables, figures, or illustrations.

### 3. Certifications

At the time of submission to the journal website (<http://jgps.alltrack.net/>), the corresponding author must read and initial certification information on behalf of all co-authors. Submission of a manuscript to the Journal implies that it has not been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. All authors must have participated sufficiently in the conception and design of the work, the analysis of the data, as well as the writing of the manuscript to take public responsibility for it. They must also have approved the manuscript for submission. Any affiliation with or involvement in an organization or entity with a financial interest in the subject matter or materials presented in the manuscript must be declared. All authors must agree to produce the data on which the manuscript is based for examination by the Editor or her assignees should they request it to document procedures, clarify controversies, or verify results. Upon acceptance, the authors must submit a signed certifications form. The certifications form can be obtained on-line (<http://www.geron.org/journals/psinst.html>) or from the editorial office. Upon acceptance of the manuscript for publication, copyright will be transferred to The Gerontological Society of America. For more detailed instructions see the above web site.