

Graduate Studies in Gerontology

Working together, the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GP-IDEA) has developed an Internet-based gerontology curriculum. The interinstitutional program draws on the expertise of graduate faculty members from collaborating universities. All the faculty members have been certified as Graduate Faculty members at their respective universities. Program content is based on Standards and Guidelines for Gerontology Programs published by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE)

Students in the program have two options: a 36-credit master's degree or a 21-credit graduate certificate, consisting of a subset of courses from the master's program. The certificate program has been designed for students whose goal is a credential in gerontology and who do not need a master's degree.

You will need a computer with a CD-ROM drive, the capacity to access and download materials from the Internet, and a browser equivalent to Netscape/Explorer 4.0 or newer. An e-mail address is essential, as well as access to a VCR (VHS) and FAX. High-speed internet access is useful, but not required.

By agreement among the collaborating institutions, tuition is currently \$395 per credit hour or \$1185 for a three credit hour course. Books and other materials are not included in the tuition.

Program of Study

The program leads to a master's degree in Family Studies and Human Services with a specialization in Gerontology. It requires 36 credit hours, 24 of them in the following courses:

- P Perspectives in Gerontology*
- P Adult Development and Aging*
- P Aging in the Family
- P Environments and Aging
- P Program Evaluation and Research Methods in Aging*
- P Economics, Public Policy, and Aging
- P Physical Health and Nutrition for Older Adults*
- P Professional Seminar in Gerontology*

The remaining 12 credits will include electives and specific courses needed to meet the requirements of the institution awarding the degree. A maximum of three credits of practicum can be included in elective credits.

The 21-credit certificate program includes the five courses indicated above with an asterisk (*). The additional six credits required for the certificate can be chosen from the remaining core courses, or from other approved elective courses.

For information on KSU's program, visit www.ksu.edu/gerontology/distance.htm/ or contact the coordinator at gpidea@ksu.edu or (785) 532-1480. Please check www.gpidea.org for the schedule of core course offerings and electives, and for a link to the web pages of collaborating institutions.

Admission to KSU

Application deadlines are March 1 for fall semester and October 1 for spring semester. Please email gpidea@ksu.edu regarding specific semester deadlines and space availability.

Application. Complete and submit the following:
P Application fee:\$30 domestic, \$55 international (Applications not considered till fee submitted)
P Application to the KSU Graduate School
P Two official transcripts of all college work
P Three letters of recommendation
P Statement of Objectives
KSU does not require GRE scores for admission to this program. For additional Graduate School information, please visit www.ksu.edu/grad/.

Application and reference forms can be obtained at www.ksu.edu/gerontology/distance.htm/ by email at gpidea@kstate.edu or by writing to the address below. Return applications to:
Great Plains Idea Program Coordinator
School of Family Studies and Human Services
312 Justin Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506
When all the materials are on file, the graduate committee will act on your request for admission and will contact you about their decision.

Financial Assistance. To qualify for financial aid, graduate students must be enrolled in 5 semester hours in the fall and spring semesters (half-time), and 3 hours in the summer. Contact Student Financial Aid (www.ksu.edu/sfa/) for more information. K-State does accept VA tuition assistance.

Careers in Gerontology*

Gerontology is the multidisciplinary study of the aging processes and individuals as they grow from middle age through later life. It includes (a) the study of physical, mental, and social changes in older people as they age; (b) the investigation of the changes in society resulting from our aging population; and (c) the application of this knowledge to policies and programs. It offers challenging and rewarding careers in an area that is growing rapidly, that needs people with a broad range of skills, and that will improve people's lives.

We live in an aging society, one in which the older population is growing both in absolute numbers and in proportion to all other age groups. Businesses, government agencies, service organizations, educational institutions, and self-employed professionals from every economic sector are recognizing the need for specialized knowledge and skills to meet the needs of this changing demography.

People who are interested in this diverse field come from many disciplines, professions, and clinical areas, such as social work, nursing, counseling, recreation, public policy, long-term care administration, medicine, architecture, psychology, adult education, and rehabilitation therapy. Some people work directly with older persons in a wide variety of programs and services in the community. Others work on behalf of older persons in areas such as advocacy and teaching about aging.

* Material adapted from Careers in Aging brochures by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE).

GREAT PLAINS IDEA

Interactive Distance Education Alliance for the Human Sciences

The Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GP-IDEA) is a consortium of Human Sciences Colleges at ten universities. Students who participate in inter-institutional programs matriculate at one institution, take web-based courses offered by others, and meet graduation requirements at the institution at which they matriculated. Inter-institutional programs are developed and implemented by teams of graduate faculty representing all participating institutions.

It is not customary to discover oneself in the practice of one's chosen profession. Working in the field of aging is an exception and could provide the opportunities of a lifetime.

~ Jon Hendricks, Ph.D.



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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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An Internet-Based Masters Degree Program & Certificate



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