

Kansas State University

M.S. IN GERONTOLOGY

&

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN

GERONTOLOGY

(ONLINE EDUCATION)

PROGRAM INFORMATION

This inter-institutional M.S. program in Gerontology draws on the expertise of graduate faculty and graduate courses from seven universities. The program is taught entirely via the Internet. This program consists of 36 semester credit hours. Students should be able to complete the program in three years while employed full time. Students who participate in full time study can shorten the time from matriculation to degree completion.

The Inter-Institutional ***M.S. degree*** consists of the following:

- **24 credit hours in required courses**
- **12 credit hours in elective courses** (needed to meet the requirements of the institution awarding the degree). Some electives will be offered through Great Plains IDEA. A number of elective courses are offered on a rotating basis and additional courses may be developed and offered in the future. In addition, the students' Advisory Committee may approve electives for the individual students' program of study.

36 Total credit hours

Requirements: 36 hours of graduate course work, including:

1. Required Courses

FSHS 775	Perspectives in Gerontology*	(3)
FSHS 845	Adult Development and Aging*	(3)
HN 718	Physical Health and Nutrition in Aging	(3)
FSHS 777	Public Policy: Economic & Social Impacts on Older Adults	(3)
ARCH 730	Environments and Aging	(3)
FSHS 778	Aging in the Family	(3)
FSHS 776	Program Evaluation and Research Methods	(3)
FSHS 779	Professional Seminar in Gerontology	(3)

2. Elective Courses

12 credit hours

The Inter-Institutional, 15-credit ***Certificate Program*** includes the two courses indicated with an asterisk(*) above as well as an additional nine credit hours of electives which may be chosen from the remaining core courses, or from other approved elective courses.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

All application materials should be uploaded directly into the College Net application system (preferred) or sent to Pam Evans, KSU Center on Aging, 253 Justin Hall, 1324 Lovers Lane, Manhattan, KS 66506. Required application materials are the same for both the Masters in Gerontology and the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology. If a student is accepted into the Certificate Program and later decides to apply to the degree program, an application fee will be required. Resubmission of some application materials may also be necessary.

To apply please submit the following:

- KSU Graduate School Application Form completed online. The application is available at <http://www.k-state.edu/grad/admissions/application-process/>. Your application will not be considered without this fee.
- **One** Official copies of your transcript(s) from each college or university which you have attended. Students can upload a copy of the transcript directly into the application, and if admitted to the program will need to have an official transcript sent directly to the graduate school prior to final admission.
- A brief resume and a Statement of Objectives (personal statement). This statement should include why you are interested in graduate study in this degree program; how it will fit in with your previous education/experience and your future career plans working with older adults; as well as what you hope to achieve while a graduate student.
- Three recommendation forms /letters of reference. These forms/letters should be from individuals ***who can discuss your academic ability and readiness to complete graduate study***. These documents should be uploaded electronically into your application. *Make sure you mark whether you waive your right to see the recommendation (refer to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974). If you fail to indicate your preference under the Act, your references will automatically be considered confidential.*

KSU does not require GRE scores for admission to the gerontology program. Application materials should be uploaded directly into the graduate school application.

After all required materials have been received, the graduate committee will act on your request for admission to the Gerontology program. You may receive one of four decisions. 1) full admission, 2) full admission, but you are on a waiting list, 3) conditional admission subject to resolving deficiencies such as completion of your bachelors program or official copy of your transcript, or 4) admission denied. Once students are accepted by the committee, the graduate school will process applications through a final approval process. The Graduate School will notify the student electronically about acceptance into the program.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

Information on required materials for international student application is found at <http://www.k-state.edu/grad/admissions/application-process/international/>.

According to policies of the Bureau of Citizen & Immigration Services within the Department of Homeland Security, international students living in the U.S. cannot enroll in more than 3 hours of online courses per semester. At the same time, these students are required to be enrolled full-time to remain in the U.S. Thus, no international students residing within the United States are eligible to enroll in the Great Plains IDEA online graduate programs at any of the Great Plains IDEA institutions unless concurrently working on another graduate degree that is on campus.

DEADLINES

Application to the Master's degree program in Gerontology or the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology is a competitive process. **A limited number of students are accepted each year based on space available.** There are no application deadlines for domestic students. Applications may be submitted at any time of year and will be reviewed by the application committee when all materials are received. Due to faculty schedules, applications submitted during the summer may take slightly longer for review.

Application deadlines for *international* students are:

DATE	Entrance Semester
January 1	Fall
August 1	Spring
December 1	Summer

If you would like to verify information about your application materials, please email pevans@ksu.edu.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

The unit faculty in its review of your application takes into consideration your undergraduate grade point average (especially during the last two years of study), whether your undergraduate institution is accredited, the extent to which our program matches your academic objectives, and your potential for graduate study as reflected by your transcripts, your letters of recommendation and your Statement of Objectives. In general, your grade point average must be 3.0 ("B") or better, although in exceptional cases we may consider recommending probationary admission if your grade point average is at least 2.75. Students with an undergraduate GPA lower than 2.75 will not be admitted to the program.

Admission is not contingent upon having a specific undergraduate degree. It is expected that applicants to the program will have familiarity with computer applications in order to successfully take the courses online.

Once all the required materials are submitted, the faculty who are active in the Gerontology graduate degree programs will review your credentials. Upon approval and assignment of an advisor, your file will be forwarded to the Graduate School, which checks the completeness of your application and official transcripts, and verifies that you have or will soon have a valid degree from an accredited* institution.

* KSU Graduate School recognizes the following Institutional Accrediting Bodies:

MSA – Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
NASAC – The Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges
NCA – North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
NEASC-CIHE – New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc./Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
SACS-CC – Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/Commission on Colleges
WASC-Sr – Western Association of Schools and Colleges/Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities

AFTER YOUR ADMISSION

K-State Campus Coordinator Rachel Ohmes will help you select your first courses and assist you with enrollment. Please feel free to contact the Center on Aging with any questions you may have about the **admissions** process. ***After you have been admitted questions should be directed to Rachel Ohmes.***

Rachel Ohmes
GPIDEA Program Coordinator
119 Justin Hall
1324 Lovers Lane
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506
Tel: 785-532-5493
gpideacc@ksu.edu

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Gayle Doll, Director
Center on Aging
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1324 Lovers Lane
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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

For further information on the M.S. in Gerontology, visit our website at:
<http://www.he.k-state.edu/aging/academics/grad/>

For information on other activities of the Center on Aging, visit our website at:
<http://www.he.k-state.edu/aging/>

For information regarding the Graduate School, visit their website at:
<http://www.k-state.edu/grad/>

For information regarding Kansas State University, visit the website at:
<http://www.k-state.edu>

The Center on Aging and the Graduate school do not handle any details related to funding for these programs. For information regarding financial assistance, you may contact:

Director
Office of Student Financial Assistance
Fairchild Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, Kansas 66506
(785) 532-6420

Or students may apply on the Internet at: <http://www.k-state.edu/sfa/>

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

For the latest course schedule, please refer to the gerontology program course matrix on the Great Plains IDEA website at <http://www.hsidea.org/programs/course-matrix/?program=geron>. The first table will include core (required) courses and the

M.S. in Gerontology + Certificate in Personal Financial Planning

Another option for students interested in the field of aging and personal finance is to combine the M.S. in Gerontology with the Certificate in Personal Financial Planning. The PFP Certificate program is 18 credit hours. There are 12 hours of electives required in the Gerontology program. Earning both the degree and certificate would require two additional courses. This option should be planned early in the program, before a student begins taking elective courses. Please contact your campus coordinator (Rachel Ohmes) to discuss this option, and for help planning your schedule.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (REQUIRED COURSES)

***FSHS 775 Perspectives in Gerontology, 3 credits, F.** An overview of current aging issues including the current focus of gerontology theory and research, critical social and political issues in aging, the interdisciplinary focus of gerontology, current career opportunities, and aging in the future.

***FSHS 845 Adult Development, 3 credits, S.** This course explores the biological, psychological, and social factors that are associated with aging. Although the focus is on the later years, information is presented from a life-span developmental framework. Empirical studies are reviewed and their strengths, limitations and implications for normative and optimal functioning are discussed.

***HN 718 Physical Health and Nutrition in Aging, 3 credits, S.** This course identifies the basic physiologic changes during aging and their impacts in health and disease. The focus will be on successful aging with special emphasis on physical activity and nutrition. Practical application to community settings is addressed.

FSHS 777 Public Policy: Economic & Social Impacts on Older Adults, 3 credits, F. Policy development in the context of the economic status of the elderly populations. Retirement planning and the retirement decision; Social Security and public transfer programs for the elderly; intrafamily transfers to/from the elderly; private pensions; financing medical care for the elderly; prospects and issues for the future.

GERON 725 Environments and Aging, 3 credits, S. Examination of attributes of physical environments that support special needs of older people and application of this knowledge to the design and management of housing, institutional settings, neighborhoods and communities.

FSHS 778 Aging in the Family, 3 credits, S. Theories and research related to personal, family, and societal adjustments in later life affecting older persons and their intergenerational relationships. Related issues including demographics also are examined through the use of current literature.

***FSHS 776 Program Evaluation and Research Methods, 3 credits, SS.** Overview of program evaluation, research methods, and grant writing in gerontology. Includes application of quantitative and qualitative methods in professional settings.

***FSHS 779 Professional Seminar in Gerontology, 3 credits, SS.** An integrative experience in which students will strengthen skills in ethical decision-making and behavior and apply those skills in related areas such as advocacy, professionalism, and family and workplace issues. Students from a variety of professions will apply unique perspectives to topics of common interest.

GRADUATE FACULTY

The list of graduate faculty at each university participating in the Masters in Gerontology or the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology is online at <http://www.hsidea.org/programs/geron/> .