

M.S. IN GERONTOLOGY

&

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN

GERONTOLOGY

(DISTANCE EDUCATION)

PROGRAM INFORMATION

This inter-institutional M.S. program in Gerontology draws on the expertise of graduate faculty and graduate courses from six 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, 21-credit ***Certificate Program*** includes the five courses indicated with an asterisk(*) listed above. The certificate program includes an additional six credits which may be chosen from the remaining core courses, or from other approved elective courses.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

All application materials should be sent to Pam Evans, Center on Aging, 103 Leasure Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506-3501. Required 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, they will have to pay the application fee and may need to resubmit some application materials.

Submit the following

- KSU Graduate School Application Form completed online. The application is available at <http://www.k-state.edu/grad/application/>. Payment is either by credit card online or the fee can be mailed directly to the grad school. There is a \$40 application fee for domestic graduate students to enter a degree program. Your application will not be considered without this fee.
- **Two** Official copies of your transcript(s) **sent directly** to the Center on Aging from each college or university which you have attended. The Graduate School cannot accept copies of transcripts furnished directly to you. Please have your school(s) send original copies of your transcripts directly to the address listed on this page.
- A brief resume and a Statement of Objectives. The Statement of Objectives should include why you are interested in graduate study in our school; 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 and accompanying letters of reference. These forms/letters should be from individuals ***who can discuss your academic ability and readiness to complete graduate study***. The recommendation form is available at <http://www.humec.k-state.edu/documents/aging/distance-letter-of-recommendation.pdf>. *Make sure you check one of the statements concerning The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and sign your name. 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 returned to:

Pam Evans
Center on Aging
103 Leasure Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506

After the application deadline date when all the 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, or 4) admission denied. Files for the applicants who are accepted into the program will be sent to the graduate school for final approval and they will notify you of the status of your acceptance into the program.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

In addition to the required materials previously listed, you must also submit the following.

Required:

- Official TOEFL Score
- Affidavit of Financial Support. This form is on the back of the International Application for Admission. See specific instructions on this form.
- A 55 U.S. dollar application fee in the form of a money order or cashier's check made payable to: Kansas State University Graduate School. **(Personal checks are not accepted.)**

See detailed application instructions on the Graduate School website at <http://www.k-state.edu/grad/gsprospective/apply/international/informin.htm>.

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.** The application deadlines for *domestic* students are:

DATE	Entrance Semester
February 1	Summer or Fall
September 1	Spring

Application deadlines for *international* students are:

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

If you would like to verify which of your application materials has been received, please send an email to 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 and your letters of recommendation. 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.

Admission is not contingent upon having a specific type of 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 you have had all the necessary materials sent to the school, the faculty of the unit to which you are applying will review your credentials. Upon approval and assignment of a temporary 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
NASC – 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

You will be assigned an advisor. K-State Campus Coordinator Amanda Gnadt 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 Amanda Gnadt.***

Amanda Gnadt
GPIDEA Program Coordinator
245 Justin Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506
Tel: 785-532-3965
e-mail: gpideacc@ksu.edu

Center on Aging
103 Leasure Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506-3501
Tel: 785-532-5945
gerontology@ksu.edu
Gayle Doll, Director
Pam Evans, Administrative Officer

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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

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>

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

Required courses are listed below by the semester they are offered. This course schedule is subject to change. For the latest course schedule, please refer to the gerontology program on the website at <http://gpidea.org/>. Go to Programs, Degrees & Courses, and follow the link for Masters Degree courses to see the list of required and elective courses offered in future semesters.

Fall	Spring	Summer
* Perspectives in Gerontology	* Adult Development	* Professional Seminar in Gerontology
* Physical Health, Nutrition and Aging	Aging in the Family	
Public Policy and Aging	Environments and Aging	
* Program Evaluation & Research Methods		

* Required for Certificate in Gerontology

In addition to the above required courses, electives will be offered each semester. Past courses have included those listed below. Additional courses may be offered as they are developed.

- Biological Aspects of Aging
- Seminar in Long Term Care
- Gender & Aging
- Mental Health and Aging
- Gerontechnology
- Cognitive Health
- Spirituality & Aging
- Global Perspectives in Elder Care
- Creativity & Aging
- Sociology & Aging
- Practicum in Gerontology

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 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

Dr. Marlys Bratteli, North Dakota State University

Dr. Whitney Brosi, Oklahoma State University

Marilyn Coleman, University of Missouri-Columbia

Dr. Christine C. Cook, Iowa State University

Teresa Cooney, University of Missouri-Columbia

Janice Dinkel, Kansas State University

Dr. Gayle Doll, Kansas State University

Lawrence Ganong, University of Missouri-Columbia

Jill Heitzman, Iowa State University

Laszlo Kulcsar, Kansas State University

Dr. Peter Martin, Iowa State University

Dr. Lyn Norris-Baker, Kansas State University

Dr. Gregory Sanders, North Dakota State University

Dr. Jean Pearson Scott, Texas Tech University

Dr. Barbara Stoecker, Oklahoma State University

Cynthia Torges, North Dakota State University

Karin VanMeter, Iowa State University