Family Financial Planning

The family financial planning master's degree is a 36-credit distance degree program that is offered through a consortium of seven midwestern and western land-grant universities through Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (http://www.gpidea.org/) (GP-IDEA). The participating land grant universities are:

- Iowa State University
- Montana State University
- North Dakota State University
- Oklahoma State University
- South Dakota State University
- University of Missouri–Columbia
- University of Nebraska–Lincoln

The program is registered with the Certified Financial Planner® Board of Standards and meets the education criteria for individuals who wish to fulfill the education component for obtaining CFP® certification. The program is also registered with the Association for Financial Counseling, Planning and Education and meets the education criteria for individuals who wish to obtain Accredited Financial Counselor (AFC®) certification. Students may also take the six core courses to fulfill this CFP® education requirement, rather than the full master's program. As a participating university in this consortium, Montana State University offers three of the twelve required courses, in addition to a three-credit practicum experience and a three-credit professional paper. The program is designed to be a part-time program for fully or partially employed students.

Applicants apply at their home institution and take approximately two to three 3-credit courses via distance delivery from each of the participating universities, at a uniform tuition rate determined by the consortium. More information is available at http://www.montana.edu/online_degrees/ffp/ or contact Dr. Deborah Haynes, 217 Herrick Hall, (406) 994-5013, dhaynes@montana.edu.

Program Options

Two plans for program completion are available: the professional paper plan and the course work-only plan.

Professional Paper/Project Plan

This option is appropriate for students who want to conduct their own original research or to participate in a project of interest. This option is particularly appropriate for students who wish to continue to get a Ph.D. A maximum of six (6) professional paper/project credits can be taken. If the student is using faculty time or university facilities to work on their professional paper/project, the student must be registered for HDFP 575 credits. The HDFP 575 credits can be graded or taken pass/fail, as negotiated between the student and the professional paper/project faculty adviser.

Course Work-Only Plan

This plan is for family financial planning students who intend to only work as a financial planning practitioner and have no intention of continuing for a Ph.D. A minimum of 36 credits of course work is required and a practicum is highly recommended for this course work-only option.

Financial Assistance

The program does qualify for financial aid. However, it is a self-supporting program and as such is not eligible for faculty and staff fee waivers through the MUS system.

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- Iowa State University
- Kansas State University
- University of Missouri–Columbia
- University of Nebraska–Lincoln
- Oklahoma State University
- North Dakota State University
- South Dakota State University
- Montana State University
- South Dakota State University

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### Program Requirements

**Subject to change; check with program contact**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDFP 510</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Family Financial Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDFP 515</td>
<td>Insurance Planning for Families</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFP 520</td>
<td>Investing for Family's Future</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFP 525</td>
<td>Retirement Planning, Employee Benefits, and Families</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFP 530</td>
<td>Estate Planning for Families</td>
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<td>HDFP 540</td>
<td>Personal Income Taxation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFP 545</td>
<td>Financial Theory and Research I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDFP 572</td>
<td>Financial Plan Case Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Electives</td>
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<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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<td><strong>36</strong></td>
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Electives (others may be approved by the student's graduate committee)

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDFP 550</td>
<td>Housing/Real Estate</td>
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<td>HDFP 555</td>
<td>Financial Counseling</td>
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<td>HDFP 560</td>
<td>Professional Practices in Family Financial Planning</td>
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<td>HDFP 575</td>
<td>Professional Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDFP 576</td>
<td>Professional Practicum</td>
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</table>

**Total Credits** 13-16
Font Notice
This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Adobe Garamond Pro.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.