

M.S. in Family Financial Planning

The family financial planning master's degree is a 30-credit distance degree program that is offered through a consortium of six 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 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. Students may also take the six core courses to fulfill this CFP® education requirement, rather than the full master's program. 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. As a participating university in this consortium, Montana State University offers four 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 online 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. MJ Kabaci, (678) 654-8546 mary.kabaci@montana.edu (mary.kabaci@montana.edu)@montana.edu (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 doctorate. 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 on for a doctorate. 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.

Program Requirements

(Subject to change; check with program contact)

Core Courses

HDFP 515	Insurance Planning for Families	3
HDFP 520	Investing for Family's Future	3
HDFP 525	Retirement Planning, Employee Benefits, and Families	3
HDFP 530	Estate Planning for Families	3
HDFP 540	Personal Income Taxation	3
HDFP 572	Financial Plan Case Studies	3
Electives		12
Total Credits		30

Electives

Electives (others may be approved by the student's graduate committee)

HDFP 510	Fundamentals of Family Financial Planning	3
HDFP 545	Financial Theory and Research I	3
HDFP 550	Housing/Real Estate	3
HDFP 555	Financial Counseling	3
HDFP 560	Professional Practices in Family Financial Planning	3
HDFP 565	Military Personal Finance	3
HDFP 575	Professional Paper	1-4
HDFP 594	Seminar	1-3
HDFP 576	Professional Practicum	3