Family Financial Planning

Interinstitutional Graduate Program

Participating Institutions: Iowa State University; Kansas State University; Montana State University; University of Nebraska; North Dakota State University; Oklahoma State University; South Dakota State University.

Family Financial Planning is an inter-institutional distance education program offered through the Web. The student selects a home institution, which grants the degree. After admission at the home institution, the student takes courses from each of the seven institutions: Iowa State University, Kansas State University, Oklahoma State University, Montana State University, University of Nebraska, North Dakota State University, and South Dakota State University.

At Iowa State University, Family Financial Planning is a specialization within the Master of Family and Consumer Sciences degree program (MFCF-FFP) that consists of 42 semester credits. Neither a thesis nor a creative component is required. Students typically complete the program in three years while employed full time. A computer with minimum specifications, Web access, and an email address are required for completing the program.

FFP Graduate Certificate Program

The FFP Certificate in Family Financial Planning consists of the six courses from the MFCF-FFP that contain the competencies required for the CFP® Certification Examination. Students interested in attaining the CFP® credential and not a master's degree should enroll in the certificate program.

Courses included in the FFP graduate certificate program include:

- **FFP 530. Fundamentals of Family Financial Planning.** (3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.SS.
- **FFP 540. Estate Planning for Families.** (3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.SS.
- **FFP 545. Retirement Planning, Employee Benefits, and the Family.** (3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.SS.
- **FFP 555. Insurance Planning for Families.** (3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.SS.
- **FFP 565. Personal Income Taxation.** (3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.SS.
- **FFP 583. Investing for the Family's Future.** (3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.SS.

Both the master's degree and Graduate Certificate programs at Iowa State University are registered with Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. As a CFP Board-registered Program, ISU FFP courses satisfy CFP Board's education requirement, allowing an individual to sit for the CFP® Certification Examination.

Iowa State University does not certify individuals to use the CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ title. CFP certification is granted only by Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. to those persons who, in addition to completing an educational requirement such as this CFP Board-Registered Program, have met its ethical experience and examination requirements. (CFP Board of Standards web site: www.cfp.net (http://www.cfp.net).)

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and the federally registered CFP (with flame logo), which it awards to individuals who successfully complete initial and ongoing certification requirements.

Admission Procedures: Admission to the FFP Certificate Program requires exactly the same procedures as admission to the Graduate College. See Graduate College section in the catalog.

Registration

Students choosing to receive their degree from Iowa State University complete all the admissions, registration and fee payment processes through ISU.

Courses primarily for graduate students, open to qualified undergraduates:

- **FFP 520. Family Systems.** (3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.SS.
- **Theory and research related to family functioning throughout the life cycle, especially financial decision making during crisis and conflict. Emphasis on factors that shape family values, attitudes, and behaviors from a multicultural perspective. New and emerging issues critical to family functioning are addressed.**
(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.SS.
Challenges of managing financial planning practices including, but not limited to: business valuation, personnel, marketing, client services, ethics and technological applications. Relying both on a theoretical as well as an applied approach, students analyze case studies that provide relevant, practical exposure to practice management issues, with a strong emphasis on current research findings.

FFP 583. Investing for the Family's Future.
(Cross-listed with HD FS). (3-0) Cr. 3. F. 
Prereq: HD FS 483
Evaluation of investment markets for the household. Analysis of how families choose where to put their savings. Emphasis is on using the family's overall financial and economic goals to help inform investment choices. (on-line course offering via Distance Education).

FFP 591. Practicum.
Cr. 3-6. F.S.SS.
Supervised experience in family financial planning.

(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.SS. 
Prereq: FFP 530, FFP 540, FFP 545, FFP 555, FFP 565, FFP 583
Professional issues in financial planning, including ethical considerations, regulation and certification requirements, communication skills, and professional responsibility. Students are expected to utilize skills obtained in other courses and work experiences in the completion of personal finance case studies, the development of a targeted investment policy, and other related financial planning assignments.