

FAMILY FINANCIAL PLANNING

Interinstitutional Graduate Program

Iowa State University offers a Master's degree in Family and Consumer Sciences with specialization in Family Financial Planning. This is an interinstitutional online program offered through the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (or GPIDEA). The student selects a home institution (Iowa State), which ultimately grants the degree. After admission to Iowa State, the student takes courses from Iowa State and the other participating institutions: Montana State University, North Dakota State University, Oklahoma State University; South Dakota State University, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The master's degree consists of 36 credits, 24 required credits and 12 elective credits (<http://www.online.hs.iastate.edu/graduate-degrees/family-financial-planning/>). This program does not require a thesis.

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's 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 ethics, 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®, which it awards to individuals who successfully complete initial and ongoing certification requirements.

FFP Graduate Certificate

The Graduate Certificate in Family Financial Planning requires six courses/18 credits which contain the competencies required for the Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) Certification Examination.

Required courses for the Family Financial Planning graduate certificate program include:

FFP 5400	Estate Planning for Families	3
FFP 5450	Retirement Planning, Employee Benefits, and the Family	3
FFP 5550	Insurance Planning for Families	3
FFP 5650	Personal Income Taxation	3

FFP 5830	Investing for the Family's Future	3
FFP 5950	Financial Planning - Case Studies	3

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Courses primarily for graduate students, open to qualified undergraduates:

FFP 5200: Financial Theory and Research I

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Theories of family functioning, macroeconomic theory related to family resource allocation decisions, the family as an economic unit, and the interaction of the economy and families. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer)

FFP 5250: Financial Theory and Research II

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Microeconomic theory as it relates to family resource allocation decisions, theories of household behavior, the lifecycle hypothesis, behavioral economics, behavioral finance, theories of behavioral change, and psychological theories of family well-being. Focus on empirical research investigating household financial decision-making. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer)

FFP 5300: Fundamentals of Family Financial Planning

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Introduction to the financial planning process and establishing client-planner relationships. Applied work in cash flow, credit and debt, income tax, insurance, investment, retirement and estate planning. Review of services provided to families, documentation required, ethics in financial planning, and Certified Financial Planner licensee responsibilities. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer)

FFP 5350: Financial Counseling

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Theory and research regarding the interactive process between the client and the practitioner, including communication techniques, motivation and esteem building, the counseling environment, ethics, and methods of data intake, verification, and analysis. Other topics include legal issues, compensation, uses of technology to identify resources, information management, and current or emerging issues. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer)

FFP 5400: Estate Planning for Families

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Fundamentals of the estate planning process, including estate settlement, estate and gift taxes, property ownership and transfer, and powers of appointment. Tools and techniques used in implementing an effective estate plan, ethical considerations used in providing estate planning services, and new and emerging issues in the field. Case studies provide experience in developing estate plans suitable for varied family forms. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer)

FFP 5410: Housing and Real Estate in Family Financial Planning

(Cross-listed with HDFS 5410).

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

The role of housing and real estate in the family financial planning process, including taxation, mortgages, financial calculations, legal concerns, and ethical issues related to home ownership and real estate investments. Emphasis on emerging issues in the context of housing and real estate. Offered even-numbered years. (Typically Offered: Summer)

FFP 5450: Retirement Planning, Employee Benefits, and the Family

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Study of micro and macro considerations for retirement planning. Survey of various types of retirement plans, ethical considerations in providing retirement planning services, assessing and forecasting financial needs in retirement, and integration of retirement plans with government benefits. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer)

FFP 5500: Military Personal Financial Readiness

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Overview of the topics relevant to the financial planning process that address the unique needs of military service members and their families. (Typically Offered: Fall, Summer)

FFP 5550: Insurance Planning for Families

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

In-depth study of risk management concepts, tools, and strategies for individuals and families, including life insurance; property and casualty insurance; liability insurance; accident, disability, health, and long-term care insurance; and government-subsidized programs. Current and emerging issues and ethical considerations relative to risk management. Case studies provide experience in selecting insurance products suitable for individuals and family, study of investment options for clients including common stocks, fixed income securities, convertible securities, and related choices. Relationships between investment options and employee/employer benefit plan choices. Current and emerging issues and ethics are included. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer)

FFP 5650: Personal Income Taxation

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

In-depth information on income tax practices and procedures including tax regulations, tax return preparation, the tax audit processes, the appeals process, preparation for an administrative or judicial forum, and ethical considerations of taxation. New and emerging issues related to taxation. Family/individual case studies provide practice in applying and analyzing tax information and recommending appropriate tax strategies. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer)

FFP 5700: Professional Practices in Financial Planning

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

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. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer)

FFP 5830: Investing for the Family's Future

(Cross-listed with HDFS 5830).

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

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. (Typically Offered: Fall)

FFP 5900: Family Financial Planning Seminar

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Repeatable, maximum of 3 credits.

Through a seminar format comprised of readings, guest lectures, collaborative case studies, peer interaction, and practical application, students will explore the rapidly growing and changing opportunities of sustainable, responsible, and impact investments. (Typically Offered: Spring, Summer)

FFP 5910: Practicum

Credits: 3-6. Repeatable.

Supervised experience in family financial planning. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer)

FFP 5950: Financial Planning - Case Studies

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

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. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer)