Graduate Certificate
Grassland Management

CONTINUING AND DISTANCE EDUCATION

Grasslands comprise more than 50 percent of the land surface in the Great Plains, representing a fundamental resource of the region. SDState Online’s graduate certificate in Grassland Management exists to help ranchers, consultants, educators and government agencies preserve this regional resource by preventing overgrazing, minimizing undesirable botanical composition shifts, improving grassland health and sustaining long-term productivity. The environmental and economic future of the Great Plains states will be determined by responsible and knowledgeable care of our resources in the present. The Grassland Management certificate is helping to ensure people across the country actively pursue such care.

PERSONALIZING YOUR PROGRAM

Whether you want to enhance a major in ecology or agriculture with some specialized courses or are a professional looking to advance in your career through additional training, the 12-credit Grassland Management certificate promises a foundational understanding of core concepts like fire ecology, plant identification, forage quality, watershed management and the ecology of invasive species.

All courses are hosted online through AG*IDEA, an affiliate of the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance. GPIDEA is a partnership of 20 public universities providing access to the best educational opportunities. GPIDEA offers fully-online graduate and undergraduate program options in high-demand professional fields. Find professors who have researched and specialized in a specific topic of interest to you and benefit from their knowledge, all through your home institution of SDSU.

AG*IDEA ensures that no matter which courses you pick, your annual costs stay the same. Courses in Grassland Management cost $530.00 per credit hour for 2015-16 and may change from year to year. This price includes all tuition and fees. Books and other course materials are not included. No other course fees are charged. Financial aid is available to all students. Make sure to complete your FAFSA to receive scholarship, grant and loan opportunities. Call SDSU’s Financial Aid Office for additional inquiries: 605-688-4695 or 800-952-3541.

CONSIDERING YOUR FINANCES

Statistics:
Certificates are the most common form of post-secondary education.

In 2010–11, U.S. schools awarded more than 1 million certificates.

People who choose to pursue a certificate after high school make an average of 20% more than those who receive no additional education.
Preserving America’s Plains

MEET A GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT PROFESSOR

Alexander "Sandy" Smart
Position Title: Professor
Department: Natural Resource Management
Area of Research: Range Science

What motivates you about your chosen field?
I have a passion for the preservation of our natural grasslands and the people who make their living from it. The rich plant diversity and natural beauty of the remaining grassland landscapes of the Great Plains is in danger of further loss.

What have been some of your greatest research accomplishments while at State?
I mined information from some historic datasets from SDSU and other research locations throughout the Great Plains that has led to the discovery of some foundational principles in my discipline.

What do you enjoy most about SDSU?
I especially enjoy seeing my former students at work in the field they were trained in and enjoying their success.

How do I find my list of required texts for class?
Simple! Click the MyState Textbooks link and look up your courses. All required books will be listed below each course.

What piece of advice would you give new students?
Work hard.

MORE INFORMATION
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605-688-4017

CAREERS IN GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Advising on Policy—
Rangeland Management Specialist with a government agency

Protecting the Land—
Land Steward with private conservation organization

Overseeing Daily Operations—
Ranch Manager

Teaching on Ranching and the Grasslands—
Extension Educator

Anticipating the Impact of Change—
Environmental Consultant

Notice: South Dakota State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer (Female/Male) and offers all benefits, services, educational and employment opportunities without regard for ancestry, age, race, citizenship, color, creed, religion, gender, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, or Vietnam Era veteran status.