



**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS**

Substantive Program Modification Form

UNIVERSITY:	SDSU
CURRENT PROGRAM DEGREE:	M.S.
CURRENT PROGRAM MAJOR/MINOR:	Human Sciences
CURRENT SPECIALIZATION:	Family Financial Planning
CIP CODE:	19.0101 – Major CIP 19.0403 – Specialization CIP
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	School of Health & Consumer Sciences
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	SHCS
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE:	Education & Human Sciences
BANNER COLLEGE CODE:	3H

University Approval

To the Board of Regents and the Executive Director: I certify that I have read this proposal, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.

 Dennis D. Hedge
 Vice President of Academic Affairs or
 President of the University

 1/25/2024
 Date

1. This modification addresses a change in:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total credits required within the discipline | <input type="checkbox"/> Total credits of supportive course work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Total credits of elective course work | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total credits required for program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program name | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing specialization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CIP Code | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Modification requiring Board of Regents approval | |
- Must have prior approval from Executive Director or designee*

2. Effective date of change: 2024-2025 Academic Year

3. Program Degree Level:

Associate Bachelor's Master's Doctoral

4. Category:

Certificate Specialization Minor Major

5. If a name change is proposed, the change will occur:

- On the effective date for all students
- On the effective date for students new to the program (enrolled students will graduate from existing program)
- Proposed new name:

6. Is the program being modified associated with a current articulation agreement?

Yes No

a. If yes, will the articulation agreement need to be updated with the partner

institution following the approve of the program change? Please explain:

7. Primary Aspects of the Modification:

<i>Existing Curriculum</i>				<i>Proposed Curriculum (highlight changes)</i>			
Prof.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.	Prof.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.
CA	612	Financial Counseling	3	CA	612	Financial Counseling	3
CA	621	Financial Theory and Research I	3	CA	621	Financial Theory and Research I	3
CA	660	Investing for Family's Future	3	CA	660	Investing for Family's Future	3
CA	680	Insurance Planning for Families	3	CA	680	Insurance Planning for Families	3
CA	704	Estate Planning for Families	3	CA	704	Estate Planning for Families	3
CA	725	Family, Employment Benefits and Retirement Planning	3	CA	725	Family, Employment Benefits and Retirement Planning	3
CA	735	Personal Income Taxation	3	CA	735	Personal Income Taxation	3
CA	755	Financial Planning Case Study	3	CA	755	Financial Planning Case Study	3
Select one of the following options				Select one of the following options			
<i>Option A</i>			12	Thesis			12
CA	798	Thesis	6	CA	798	Thesis	6
		Electives from Electives List	6			Electives from Electives List	6
<i>Option B</i>			12	Non-Thesis			12
CA	788	Research Problems/Projects	3	CA	788	Research Problems/Projects	3
		Electives from Electives List	9			Electives from Electives List	12
<i>Option C</i>			12	Option C			
		Electives from Electives List	12			Electives from Electives List	12
Electives List				Electives List			
CA	517	Communication in Financial Planning	3	CA	517	Communication in Financial Planning	3
CA	595	Practicum	3-6	CA	595	Practicum	3-6
				CA	612	Financial Counseling	3
				CA	621	Financial Theory & Research	3
CA	640	Fundamentals of Family Financial Planning	3	CA	640	Fundamentals of Family Financial Planning	3
CA	645	Military Personal Financial Readiness	3	CA	645	Military Personal Financial Readiness	3
CA	715	Housing and Real Estate in FFP	3	CA	715	Housing and Real Estate in FFP	3
CA	721	Financial Theory and Research II	3	CA	721	Financial Theory and Research II	3
CA	745	Professional Practices in Financial Planning	3	CA	745	Professional Practices in Financial Planning	3
				CA	788	Research Problems/Projects	3
CA	790	Seminar	3	CA	790	Seminar	3
STAT	541	Statistical Methods II	3	STAT	541	Statistical Methods II	3
Total number of hours required for degree				Total number of hours required for degree			
		Option A	36			Thesis	30
		Option B	36			Non-Thesis	30
		Option C	36				

8. Explanation of the Change:

The Human Sciences (M.S.) – Family Financial Planning Specialization is offered online at SDSU through a collaboration with the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GPIDEA). The online program is delivered by faculty at Iowa State University, Montana State University, North Dakota State University, Oklahoma State University, South Dakota State University, and University of Nebraska Lincoln. The Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GPIDEA) Family Financial Planning program has decided to change their total program hours from 36 credits to 30 credits. This revision is based on careful consideration of factors that significantly

influence prospective learners' enrollment decisions, including the cost of the degree and time to completion. The other universities in the GPIDEA consortium are concurrently making this change.

The SDSU Graduate School has revised SDSU Policy 2:17 Credit Requirements for Graduate Credential Programs. The Graduate School adjusted the language to no longer refer to master's programs using Option A (Thesis Option), B (Research/Design Paper Option), C (Coursework Only), and D (Coursework Only – Professional Program) but to move forward with Thesis and Non-Thesis options that will require a minimum of 30 credits.



August 11, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

The Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GP IDEA) Family Financial Planning program has examined moving their total program hours from 36 credits to 30 credits. This proposed alteration is based on careful consideration of factors that significantly influence prospective learners' enrollment decisions, including the cost of the degree and time to completion. I have reviewed national data as well as competitor trends and am in full support of this shift in credit hours to make the program more accessible and competitive in today's academic landscape.

In a 2019 EAB report entitled, *Understanding the Shifting Adult Learner Mindset* (EAB, 2019), survey results indicated that cost (39.6% of respondents) and time commitments (44.7% of respondents) were the top two reasons why learners were not pursuing further education. These factors were further substantiated in the Education Dynamics' 2023 Online College Students Report: when asked about the most important factors in their enrollment decisions, 46% of graduate students stated cost and 30% stated time to completion (Aslanian et al., 2023). The duration of a graduate program holds significant weight not only because of its relation to cost, but also because it increases appeal to working professionals. We see this national data reflected here at home as the GP IDEA Family Financial Planning program has 75% of its learners that are employed either full- or part-time. This data allows us to think about what "levers" can be pulled so that we maximize our competitive advantage (EAB, 2021).

One such lever is time to degree completion. In early 2023, the [GP IDEA management team](#) evaluated 10 competitor institutions offering an online master's degree in Family Financial Planning. Of these institutions, five required 30 credit hours, four required 31 to 33 credit hours, and just one required 36 credit hours. By implementing the change from 36 to 30 credit hours, we can bolster our program's appeal and meet the needs of the adult learner.

Furthermore, by reducing the credit hour requirements, learners would be able to complete their studies in a shorter timeframe, allowing them to balance their academic goals, family, and career goals. Likewise, we would substantially alleviate the financial burden on learners, making this program more accessible and competitive in today's academic landscape. This strategic adjustment aligns with our collective commitment to provide a high-quality education while ensuring accessibility and affordability for all.

Thank you for your support of GP IDEA and the Family Financial Planning Program. I look forward to our collective work ahead.

Best,

Chelsea Barbercheck

Chelsea Barbercheck, PhD
Executive Director

Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GP IDEA)

Digitally signed by Chelsea Barbercheck
DN: cn=Chelsea Barbercheck, o=Kansas State
University, ou=Great Plains IDEA, Dean's Office,
email=c.barber@ksu.edu, c=US
Date: 2023.09.12 11:31:20 -05'00'