ABOUT GREAT PLAINS IDEA

The Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (Great Plains IDEA) is a consortium of distinguished, accredited universities offering fully online graduate programs. Each university brings a unique strength in faculty and curriculum to the multi-institution program. Students choose a home university where they apply, are admitted, register for courses, and receive their degree. Online courses are taught by the best faculty in each discipline from several universities. Students pay one common price per credit hour regardless of which university is their degree-granting institution.

PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES

Kansas State University
www.k-state.edu/ksugpidea

Michigan State University
www.fce.msu.edu/graduate_programs/yd_ma.html

North Dakota State University
www.ndsu.edu/hde/graduate/online_masters_degrees/

University of Missouri
www.mudirect.missouri.edu/greatplains

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
www.gpidea.unl.edu

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.NDSU.EDU/DCE

OR CONTACT US AT
NDSU.GPIDEA.ND@NDSU.EDU
ABOUT THE PROGRAM
This program is the only online degree which focuses solely on youth development. Students will become immersed in a strengths-based curriculum, an approach which is in high demand nationwide, and learn a methodology which supports youth, enabling them to become socially, emotionally, and cognitively competent adults.

A master’s degree in Youth Development prepares students for a career in organizations such as 4-H and Boys and Girls Clubs of America, non-profits, faith-based groups, community recreation, juvenile justice facilities, middle and high school programs, extension services, and military youth programs.

With this degree you will be able to
• Develop policies with a positive effect
• Apply basic research and evaluation skills
• Understand normative pathways to development
• Work with agencies, boards, families, and other professionals
• Gain the necessary skills for budgeting, grant writing, and fund-raising
• Examine the impact of local, state, federal, and global policies on youth
• Identify how youth and family cultural issues affect positive youth outcomes
• Apply the primary concepts of youth development

27 CREDIT HOURS COURSEWORK
• Youth Policy
• Adolescents & Their Families
• Administration & Program Management
• Contemporary Youth Issues
• Youth in Cultural Contexts
• Community Youth Development
• Youth Professionals as Consumers of Research
• Program Design, Evaluation, & Implementation
• Youth Development

1 CREDIT HOUR FOUNDATIONS SEMINAR

8 CREDIT HOURS ELECTIVES AND/OR MASTER’S THESIS, PROJECT OR PRACTICUM
Depending on requirements of degree-granting institution. Can be completed locally.

METHOD OF DELIVERY
The courses in this program are taught by the same instructors who teach on campus at the participating universities. Curriculum is specially adapted for the online environment to ensure students receive the same quality education as they would experience on campus.

Course schedules are determined by the teaching institution, but do not have set class times, allowing students to access course content when it is convenient for them. Students meet deadlines as outlined by the instructor, and interact with instructors and other students through e-mail, chats, discussion boards, and other interactive methods. Students must have access to a computer, e-mail, and the Internet.

BENEFITS OF ONLINE LEARNING
• Advance your career
• Increase your earning potential
• Maintain work and family commitments
• Interact with instructors and classmates from around the world

The online Youth Development graduate program was an excellent course of training. The commitment and passion of the faculty have inspired me to advocate for our youth, and help them fulfill their individual potential. Now as a doctoral candidate, I appreciate the knowledge and expertise I’ve gained through Great Plains IDEA even more.

Toni Cerbo, MA Program Graduate