

# Family Financial Planning

## Online Master's Degree Program

Online  
program



Through MSU and a consortium of universities called Great Plains IDEA, students who are interested in Family Financial Planning can earn an online master's degree and become eligible to test with the Certified Financial Planners® Board of Standards.



Through a consortium of eight Western and Midwestern universities, Montana State University offers a distance education master's degree for students interested in Family Financial Planning. The 36-credit program earns students a Masters of Science in Health and Human Development with an option in Family Financial Planning through MSU's College of Education, Health and Human Development. The program is part of the Great Plains Distance Education Alliance, a consortium that includes MSU as well as Iowa State University, Kansas State University, University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Nebraska, North Dakota State University, Oklahoma State University and South Dakota State University. MSU Family Financial Planning students take online classes via each of the participating institutions throughout the course of their degree, benefiting from shared resources and shared intellectual expertise.

The Family Financial Planning online graduate program is registered by the Certified Financial Planner® Board of Standards, and students who have completed their degree are eligible to take the CFP®

certification exam due to having completed the exam's educational requirements (however, students are not guaranteed to pass the exam). CFP® and Certified Financial Planner® are federally registered service marks of the Certified Financial Planner® Board of Standards, Inc. They are granted by the CFP® Certification Examination to those persons who have satisfied a work experience requirement and agreed to abide by the CFP® Board code of ethical conduct.

### Why Consider Family Financial Planning?

In today's economic climate, individuals and families are responsible for meeting their own financial goals. Changes in employment, life span, retirement and costs of education are a handful of the many reasons financial planners are recognized as invaluable partners in planning for one's future.

Many of our graduates have used this degree to advance in their current careers or find new careers in the financial services industry, as independent consultants, or in related positions in government, education, and other industries.

### For more information:

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## The curriculum

This 36 credit-hour master's degree program in Financial Planning consists of eight 3-credit core courses and twelve credits of elective course work. Students work with their academic adviser on appropriate course selection and sequence.

### Core Courses

HDFP 515, Insurance Planning for Families

HDFP 520, Investing for the Family's Future

HDFP 525, Retirement Planning, Employee Benefits and the Family

HDFP 530, Estate Planning for Families

HDFP 540, Personal Income Taxation

HDFP 545, Financial Theory and Research I

HDFP 555, Financial Counseling

HDFP 572, Financial Planning Case Studies

### Electives

HDFP 510, Fundamentals of Financial Planning

HDFP 550, Housing/Real Estate

HDFP 560, Professional Practices

HDFP 575, Professional Paper

HDFP 576, Professional Practicum

HDFP 594, Seminar

## About Distance Learning

The Family Financial Planning Program is designed with working professionals in mind. Most students take one or two three-credit courses per semester, which allows them to juggle work and family responsibilities. Prospective students should plan on allocating eight to 12 hours per week for a three-credit course. The FFP program is an asynchronous program, meaning that the student is not required to be online at any specific time during the week. The only requirement is that students have a computer and access to the Internet.

## About Montana State University

Montana State University is a world-class research university that encourages exploration and inspires creativity. As Montana's land-grant university, MSU is dedicated to delivering a hands-on curriculum that is relevant, practical and focused. Faculty are leaders in their fields and committed to every student's success.

MSU is regionally accredited by Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU); professional schools and departments are approved by specialized accrediting organizations. MSU has offered online courses for professionals since 1993.

**This program helps working professionals who already have bachelor's degrees start careers assisting people with personal finances. The program is conducted in cooperation with the Board of Standards for the Certified Financial Planner® program. Successful students will be eligible to take the Certified Financial Planner® Certification Examination.**

