Graduate Certificate in Great Plains Studies

Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences offers a 15-hour graduate certificate program in the area of Great Plains Studies, an interdisciplinary program for professional or personal enrichment. This certificate is for students interested in taking a concentration of courses focusing on a common topic, the Great Plains.

Certificate Requirements
Select 15 credit hours from the following courses, including at least two courses in each area:

*Physical*
- GEOL 560 Geomorphology and Land Use
- GEOL 562 Regional Geology of the United States
- GEOL 640 Field Geology
- BIOL 503 Field Botany
- BIOL 532 Entomology
- BIOL 560 Plant Ecology
- BIOL 561 Plant Ecology Lab
- BIOL 575 Field Ecology
- BIOL 610 Topics in Botany
- BIOL 640F Stream Ecology

*Cultural*
- ANTH 612 Indians of the Great Plains
- ANTH 613 Archaeology of the Great Plains
- HIST 528 History of Wichita
- HIST 535 History of Kansas
- HIST 701 Introduction to Local and Community History

By the end of the student’s final semester, the student should submit to the coordinator at least three works that demonstrate the application of the concepts, issues, and topics of Great Plains Studies. Examples of these works may be a thesis, a conference paper or poster, a novel, a play, a work of nonfiction, a historic tour, historic performance, museum exhibit, policy paper, fieldwork notes, or collaborative event with a community or scholarly organization.

Courses whose content may emphasize the Great Plains, depending on instructor and semester, may be counted toward the certificate provided they meet the proposed distribution requirements. Any substitution of the listed course must be approved by the coordinator and must meet the subject domain distribution requirement. Courses that do not meet the learning outcomes of the certificate will be taken off the approved course list.

Completion process:
1. Students who are already admitted to an appropriate Graduate category and who are interested in pursuing a graduate certificate must declare their intent to do so by filling out the online Declaration of Intent to Pursue a Graduate Certificate form at [www.wichita.edu/GrCertIntent](http://www.wichita.edu/GrCertIntent)
2. Graduate School staff will then verify eligibility for the certificate with that program area, and add the appropriate codes to the student record to indicate their intent to pursue the certificate.
3. In the semester the certificate requirements are met students must:
   - Prepare (with graduate advisor) and submit (to the Graduate School) a Plan of Study (for the certificate).
   - Submit an Application for Graduate Certificate, along with the $15.00 filing fee, online through the Graduation Links channel in the *myWSU* portal, no later than the 20th day of classes for the fall or spring semester or the 10th day of classes for the summer semester.
Note:

- A cumulative grade point average of 3.000 must be maintained for all courses comprising the certificate program with no grades lower than that which generate 2.0 grade points.
- Substitutions and transfer work are generally not allowed for graduate certificates.

**Admission Requirements:**

Students seeking this graduate certificate program must be admitted to the Graduate School in either degree bound status, or non-degree Category A status. International students will not be issued an I-20 for pursuing a certificate program only. They may obtain a certificate only while concurrently pursuing a graduate degree. Students who have a previous graduate admission status should contact the Graduate School to determine if they need to apply for admission to an appropriate status, or simply need to reactivate their enrollment file, and declare their intent to pursue a graduate certificate.

**Degree Admission.** – The student must have earned a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution or a recognized institution in another country whose requirements for the bachelor's degree are substantially equivalent to an American four-year bachelor's degree. The student must also have a grade point average of at least 2.750 based upon the last 60 hours of course work (or nearest semester or term break to this), including any post-bachelor's graduate work, and no more than 9 hours of background deficiencies in the desired field. Some programs may require a higher minimum grade point average, as well as additional supporting materials. Visit [www.wichita.edu/gradprograms](http://www.wichita.edu/gradprograms) for details on any departmental requirements.

**Non-Degree, Category A** – Students who already possess a graduate degree and who do not wish to pursue a second degree, or who wish to only pursue a graduate certificate should apply for non-degree, Category A admission. Admission to this category requires the applicant to either hold a graduate degree from a regionally accredited institution or recognized institution in another country, OR if the applicant does not hold a graduate degree, he or she must meet the same requirements as if they were applying for a degree program.

Details on how to apply for admission can be found online:
- Domestic Applicants: [www.wichita.edu/grdoappinfo](http://www.wichita.edu/grdoappinfo)
- International Applicants: [www.wichita.edu/grinappinfo](http://www.wichita.edu/grinappinfo)

**NOTE:** When applying for admission please indicate in the Additional Information field that you are interested in pursuing this specific certificate, so your file can be coded appropriately.

Certificate programs are not eligible for Title IV (federal financial aid) funding unless the certificate is a requirement of a degree program.

The exceptions are approved programs of at least one academic year in duration that leads to a certificate and prepares students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation. Approved programs will be designated with disclosure information on the program web page in the applicable academic college.

**For more information:**

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**Apply On-Line to Graduate School:** [www.wichita.edu/apply](http://www.wichita.edu/apply)