
Inter-institutional Distance Education Academic Alliances: The Great Plains IDEA Model

The Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (Great Plains IDEA), a joint project of member institutions, supports online programs offered jointly by two or more institutions.

Academic programs are the core of Great Plains IDEA.

- Program curricula are developed by inter-institutional faculty teams. Member institutions participate in programs that fit their interests and expertise. After developing a program, the program faculty team may invite other institutions to participate.
- The same core curriculum is offered at each member institution. Institutions assign the program name, course titles, and course numbers consistent with institutional practices.
- All courses and curricula receive full institutional review and meet the institutional academic standards of the participating institutions.
- Program faculty who meet the teaching qualifications of their employing institution are considered to be qualified by all participating institutions.
- Students seek admission to the institution of their choice and institutional admissions and graduation standards and processes prevail.
- Institutions are responsible for program assessment. Great Plains IDEA coordinates the processes of assessment and feedback.



Great Plains IDEA Programs

Community Development
Dietetics
Family & Community Services
Family & Consumer Sciences Education
Family Financial Planning
Gerontology
Merchandising
Youth Development

Agricultural Education
Agricultural & Environmental Law
Ag. Systems, Management, & Technology
Food Safety & Defense
Grasslands Management
Swine Science Online
Bioenergy and Sustainable Technology
Horticulture
Soil, Water, & Environmental Science

The Great Plains IDEA culture is egalitarian and participatory and accommodates differences in institutional practices.

- Great Plains IDEA is governed by a Cabinet and Academic Boards, i.e. Human Sciences and AG*IDEA academic boards.
- Central Great Plains IDEA functions including financial and data transaction oversight, website maintenance, communications, governance, and program management support, are managed by a "Lead Institution" or managing partner, chosen by the Cabinet.
- Operational policies and procedures are recommended by representatives of academic deans, department heads, registrars, institutional finance officers, continuing education units, and graduate schools at member institutions.
- Great Plains IDEA information is available at the alliance website and program information is available at both the alliance website and institutional websites.
- Student data are securely accessed inter-institutionally through the ExpanSIS student information system.

To learn more about
Great Plains IDEA visit
www.gpidea.org

Great Plains IDEA financial support comes from student enrollments.

- No annual membership fees are assessed. However, partner institutions may contribute in-kind support to the alliance. Great Plains IDEA holds no property.
- Students pay a negotiated common price/credit hour to the institution at which they matriculate. Of this price, 75% supports the costs at the teaching institution, 12.5% supports administrative costs at the admitting institution and 12.5% supports central Great Plains IDEA functions.
- Course development, delivery costs and faculty assignments are institutional responsibilities.