Study Human Development Across the Lifespan
Earn a Degree or Graduate Certificate Completely Online

About Great Plains IDEA
The Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (Great Plains IDEA) is a consortium of distinguished, accredited universities that Texas Tech University is proud to be a part of. Degree and certificates programs are delivered 100% ONLINE.

About Our Programs

Early Child Care Undergraduate Degree
Young children and families need professional support in a society that is moving rapidly and constantly changing. This program will prepare you to work in a variety of early childhood settings. Graduates will receive a Bachelor of Science degree and are then qualified to seek teacher certification in the state of their choice and to work in a variety of programs such as:
- Childcare centers and homes
- Infant, toddler and Head Start programs
- After school and summer child care programs
- Preschool programs
- Providing care or teaching children abroad
- Childcare referral and state agencies

Youth Development Master’s Degree and Graduate Certificates
This program is the only online degree focused 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.
The Youth Development program prepares students for a career in organizations such as:
- 4-H and Boys and Girls Clubs of America
- Non-profit organizations
- Faith-based groups
- Community recreation
- Infant, toddler and Head Start programs
- After school and summer child care programs
- Juvenile justice facilities
- Middle and high school programs
- Extension services
- Military youth programs

Gerontology Master’s Degree and Graduate Certificate
We live in an aging society, one in which the older population is growing both in absolute numbers and in proportion to all other age groups. Businesses, government agencies, service organizations, educational institutions, and self-employed professionals from every economic sector are recognizing the need for specialized knowledge and skills to meet the needs of this changing demography.
Advanced study in Gerontology can benefit professionals in a wide variety of career areas such as:
- Social work
- Nursing
- Counseling
- Recreation
- Public policy
- Medicine and rehabilitation
- Adult education
- Family services