Secondary Majors

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Kansas State University offers four secondary majors that supplement the choice of a primary major.

Secondary majors allow students to examine complex topics from many vantage points.

The secondary major program requirements follow a common pattern. Each study area requires at least two of the following: an interdisciplinary introductory course, a list of electives from which you choose about 18 hours, and an interdisciplinary senior seminar for supervised independent study. Most programs allow completion of a primary and a secondary major within the normal four-year program.

Gerontology

If you enjoy working with older people, want to help others, or plan to enter the health care, social service or legal profession, you should consider gerontology: the study of aging.

You’ll learn about physical, mental and social changes as people age, as well as changes in our society as more people live longer. Demand is increasing for people with specialized training in gerontology, and you can work with older adults directly or on their behalf in advocacy, public policy, research or education.

Gerontology pairs well with nearly every major on campus. Some electives may cross-list with your primary major, allowing many students to complete both their primary and secondary majors in four years. The secondary major in gerontology is a 24-hour interdisciplinary program. It includes two required courses, Introduction to Gerontology and Seminar in Gerontology, and 18 semester hours from more than 40 approved courses available in five colleges.

Along with the secondary major, students also can take an emphasis in long-term care administration, qualifying them to take the Kansas licensure examination for adult care home administration. The emphasis can be completed with 21 hours and an internship for nine credits.

For more information contact:
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International studies

The international studies program promotes understanding of the international community through its commitment to interdisciplinary study. The program provides students not only a field of academic study, but also a useful background for various careers.

The international studies program encourages a substantial distribution of foreign and international coursework totaling 24 hours and including no more than six hours in any discipline.

Students who complete the secondary major in International studies are expected to include the following within their areas of knowledge or competency:
- Speaking capability in a foreign language.
- Basic geographic knowledge of the world.
- Ability to understand and analyze cultures other than their own.
- Some understanding of international relations.
- An integration of their program of study into a meaningful and coherent whole.

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Latin American studies

Latin American studies can be valuable in combination with majors in education, sociology, social work, business and other fields. Course requirements in at least four disciplines provide a diverse introduction to Latin American culture.

The required senior seminar allows students to do independent study using information sources from different disciplines. Students must complete Spanish 4 or have equivalent competence in Spanish or Portuguese. Students select 21 hours of coursework in a minimum of four departments. No more than nine hours in any department may be counted as part of secondary major requirements.

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Points of pride

The Princeton Review picked K-State among the best colleges in the country, ranking K-State highly in several categories, including town-gown relations and happiest students.
Natural resources and environmental sciences

Global awareness of natural resources and environmental concerns promises significant changes in our future. Sustaining a high quality of life on this planet requires a greater understanding of the world.

The natural resources and environmental sciences, or NRES, secondary major prepares students to apply broadly based scientific knowledge to the use, management, sustainability and quality of soil, air, water, mineral, biological and energy resources. Courses cover a broad spectrum of natural resource, environmental and sustainability subjects.

The secondary major offers enhanced career opportunities for individuals who can deal with the broad scope of natural resource and environmental problems.

Most programs allow you to complete the NRES secondary major within the normal time required for your primary major. Completion of the NRES major requires students to meet basic, block electives and capstone course requirements.

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