College of Human Ecology

Human Ecology

Overview
The College of Human Ecology focuses first on people. Our mission is to discover, disseminate and apply knowledge to meet basic human needs and improve the human condition. Academic programs center on the study of health and human behavior to enhance the well-being of individuals, families and communities.

Undergraduate programs offered in the college are briefly described below.

Academics

General human ecology
This program can include courses from all areas of human ecology. The program’s flexibility allows students to choose courses to prepare for unique career goals and for careers in family and consumer sciences education in schools and extension. Some students initially choose general human ecology while exploring their academic options.

Family and consumer sciences education
This licensure program prepares graduates to teach family and consumer sciences at the middle school, senior high or postsecondary levels. Family and consumer sciences education directly addresses the needs of individuals and families related to nurturing relationships, parenting education, healthy lifestyles and resource management.

Department of Apparel, Textiles, and Interior Design

Apparel and textiles
The apparel and textiles program at K-State emphasizes the importance of sustainability in understanding the production, distribution and consumption of apparel and textile goods. Students are encouraged to integrate sustainability concepts into all stages of the apparel supply chain. Two specializations are available: apparel design and production — qualified advancement required — and apparel marketing. Graduates are prepared for positions in retail management, marketing and merchandising; apparel design and manufacturing; and product development.

Interior design
Admission to the interior design program is selective and limited. Review of applicants for the fall term begins Feb. 1 each year for admission the following fall term. Contact the admissions office for application information.

The interior design program in the College of Human Ecology emphasizes the interaction between humans and the interior environment. Interior designers typically develop a program of space needs with description of environmental qualities to guide design decisions. When developing solutions for interior spaces, interior designers consider a variety of factors, including spatial attributes, construction, material properties and energy consumption, as well as contextual factors such as precedent, building and site location, and behavioral and cultural patterns of use.

Graduates are employed in architecture and interior design firms and facility planning and management positions. The program is accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation, or CIDA, and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

School of Family Studies and Human Services

Communication sciences and disorders
Communication sciences and disorders is the academic program for the profession of speech-language pathology. It is for students interested in human communication and swallowing for individuals across the lifespan. The program offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees in speech-language pathology. A graduate degree is required for certification and licensure for professional practice.

The master’s program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Early childhood education
This accredited program prepares teachers and administrators for early care and education programs for young children from birth through kindergarten, including children with disabilities. The program meets Kansas teaching licensure requirements for early childhood unified, birth through kindergarten. Academic coursework is enriched by clinical experiences in a licensed child care center operated by the School of Family Studies and Human Services and in kindergarten classrooms of unified school districts.

Family studies and human services
The family studies and human services program focuses on the development of the individual in a family context. The program also emphasizes development of individuals across the lifespan. Courses focus on human development, development of healthy interpersonal relationships, human interaction and applying best practices when working directly with individuals. An optional internship is available. This program is approved by the National Council of Family Relations, or NCFR, for the Certified Family Life Educator, or CFLE, designation. Graduates work in youth programs, family and social service programs, residential programs, judicial system, cooperative extension, higher education, elder care and public health departments.

Personal financial planning
Personal financial planning combines coursework in human ecology, business and economics. Emphasis is placed on understanding financial products and how they work, the integral role of the family in financial decisions and planner-client relationship building skills. The program is registered with the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards and offers financial planning courses that satisfy the CFP®/Certified Financial Planner™ certification requirements. The program also is registered with the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education, and the International Association of Registered Financial Consultants.

Points of pride

The College of Human Ecology at Kansas State University is the largest and most comprehensive human sciences program in Kansas, offering bachelor’s degrees, master’s degrees and doctorates. The college ranks third largest in undergraduate programs in the nation, and second largest in graduate programs.

k-state.edu/admissions/academics
Department Food, Nutrition, Dietetics and Health

Nutritional sciences (premedicine)
The nutritional sciences program prepares students for professional schools, including medical, dental, optometry or pharmacy schools, or for graduate study in the biological or nutritional sciences. This science-based program can be planned to fulfill the basic requirements for these professional programs or the entrance requirements for allied health professions including dietetics, physician assistants and other health occupations.

Dual degrees: nutrition and kinesiology
Graduates are prepared for careers in health programs in hospitals, wellness centers, public and private clinics, athletic and health clubs, and public health settings. Graduates receive two degrees: a B.S. in human nutrition and a B.S. in kinesiology.

Nutrition and health
The nutrition and health curriculum emphasizes health promotion as well as human nutrition. Graduates of this program work in a variety of settings to promote diet and health among the general public. Positions include public health nutritionist; cooperative extension agent; nutrition expert for mass media; or nutrition specialist in food-related industries, trade associations, food commodity groups or pharmaceutical companies.

Dietetics
The dietetics program prepares students for careers as credentialed dietitians who provide leadership in the delivery of food service management and nutrition services. Dietitians provide information and guidance relating to questions of normal and clinical nutrition, including nutrition assessment and counseling. They work in acute care and outpatient health care settings, community and public health programs, fitness programs, food service management, private practice, and food and pharmaceutical industries.

The coordinated program prepares students for dietetics practice by integrating the 1,200 hours supervised practice experience or internship, required by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics, with a bachelor's degree program. Graduates of this program immediately may sit for the national Registration Examination for Dietitians, and are eligible for active membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

The didactic program in dietetics meets the academic requirements of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics. After completion of this program, the graduate must obtain the 1,200 hours of supervised practice experience required for eligibility to take the national Registration Examination for Dietitians. This experience must be completed through an accredited, postbaccalaureate dietetic internship in the United States.

Graduates of the didactic program in dietetics are eligible to apply for a postbaccalaureate dietetic internship, followed by the national Registration Examination for Dietitians.

Athletic training
Admission to the athletic training program is selective and limited. Review of applicants will begin Feb. 1 for admission the following fall semester. Contact the admissions office for application information.

The athletic training educational program is a cooperative program housed in the Department of Food, Nutrition, Dietetics and Health with support from the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics. Athletic trainers are employed in many settings, including sports medicine clinics, high schools, colleges and professional sports. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education, or CAATE.

Department of Kinesiology
Kinesiology is the study of physical activity across a range of tasks, including exercise, daily living, play, sport and work. Kinesiology promotes an understanding of the necessity and application of physical activities for optimal health. Coursework integrates biological science and social and behavioral science approaches using biomechanical, physiological, psychological and sociological perspectives. Graduates pursue exercise-related careers or advanced education through health professional and graduate schools. More than 50 percent annually are admitted to physical therapy, physician assistant, public health, medicine and other health-related graduate degree programs. Outstanding students may pursue concurrent Bachelor of Science/Master of Science degrees in kinesiology or in kinesiology and public health. The combined degree programs are an accelerated route to an advanced degree.

Department of Hospitality Management
Hospitality management
The mission of the hospitality management program at K-State is to prepare students for professional careers in hospitality management by providing theory-based instruction and practical experience. Students receive a general education; an understanding of business administration; specialized technical knowledge of hotel, restaurant and food service, or event and convention management; and practical experience in the industry. Students can elect to receive a business minor as they complete the hospitality management degree requirements. The program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Administration, or ACPHA, of the Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institution Education, or CHRIE.

For more information about human ecology or about transferring coursework from other institutions:
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Post-Graduation Statistics
k-state.edu/postgrad-stats
ksdegreestats.org