Minor in Financial Literacy for Helping Professionals

Individuals who struggle to meet their financial needs may have problems with their credit history or lack of experience with mainstream financial institutions and the language they speak. It is easy for someone who lives in or near poverty to fall prey to unscrupulous lenders, who take advantage of unstable situations. This program will prepare professionals to help clients avoid predatory lending practices, as well as access programs designed to supplement income for the impoverished. Education on available resources, in addition to engaging in dialogue and identifying accessibility with families, will be emphasized.

The School of Social Work, in collaboration with the Department of Personal Financial Planning in the College of Human Environmental Sciences at MU, has developed a minor that will prepare students to work with vulnerable clients who are in need of financial counseling and education. Coursework includes classes in personal and family finance, financial counseling, tax planning, economics, community agencies, social policy, and exploration in social and economic justice.

Requirements

The minor requires completion of 15 credit hours as defined below, with a grade of C- or above. Also required in the student's major curriculum is Microeconomics and College Algebra. A student must be admitted to the University of Missouri with a declared academic major. The student must have an overall GPA requirement of a 2.5 to apply for and earn the minor. This minor is available to students regardless of academic major. The non-academic certificate and training program include a financial simulation activity and related coursework.

FINPLN 2183 Personal and Family Finance 3
FINPLN 3282 Financial Counseling 3
FINPLN 4188 Community Agencies and Volunteerism (taught in spring semester only; students will need to attend a workshop in order to certify for IRS compliance) 3
SOC_WK 2000 Exploration in Social and Economic Justice 3
or SOC_WK 2000W Exploration in Social and Economic Justice - Writing Intensive
SOC_WK 4390 Helping Strategies With Children and Adolescents 3

Total Credits 15

* Successful completion of coursework allows students to sit for the Accredited Financial Counselor Exam.