The creative component is meant to serve as a meaningful and relevant experience toward the end of your degree program. There are several steps in preparing for the creative component. The following is meant to serve as a guide for you as you prepare for this stage of the program.

During the entire degree program, you are encouraged to be thinking about the creative component. What this means is that you will take courses or have outside experiences that spark additional interest in certain aspects of Gerontology. As this happens, you are encouraged to visit with your professors and the creative component coordinator to begin brainstorming about related opportunities. Keep in mind that the creative component experience is not meant to be an afterthought but rather an experience which you carefully select with the assistance of the coordinator based on your interests and desired areas of growth.

Students have two ways in which they can complete the creative component requirement; 1 – Field Experience, or 2 – Directed, Written Project. For details of each, see the Creative Component Options handout.

After you enroll in your 27th credit hour, you will receive an email from Dr. Bailey indicating that you are nearing the end of your program and the creative component experience. If you have not done so before you enroll in your 27th hour, you are expected to contact Dr. Bailey to discuss your plans. Although the creative component is individualized for each student, there are specific program guidelines you must follow. Contacting Dr. Bailey in a timely manner will ensure that you will find an experience that matches your goals and timeline. This will also ensure that you are progressing toward graduation by meeting all of the creative component requirements.

If you are an OSU Great Plains IDEA - Gerontology Master’s student and would like more information about the creative component, contact:

Whitney A. Bailey, Ph.D.
Coordinator, Creative Component
GPIDEA – Gerontology
Oklahoma State University
405-744-3350 phone
whitney.a.bailey@okstate.edu