As a student pursuing the Great Plains IDEA Master’s in Gerontology through Oklahoma State University you have two options for completing the creative component requirement; 1 – A Field Experience, or 2 – A Directed, Written Project. In an effort to assist you in determining which option best matches your goals, this handout provides a general description of each.

**THE FIELD EXPERIENCE**

The Field Experience requires you to identify a gerontology related position in which you will work. The general requirements for this experience are that you:

- Identify, with direction from Dr. Whitney Bailey, an OSU faculty supervisor who will oversee your field experience.
- Work for a minimum of 240 clock hours (80 clock hours are required for each credit hour in which you are enrolled).
- Keep a weekly journal during the entire work period in which you reflect on your experiences and the goals which have been set. Journals must be submitted to the OSU faculty supervisor each week.
- Have a supervisor at the site who can assist you in identifying three to five goals before the work begins. During the course of the field experience, the site supervisor will also be asked to confirm your work hours, evaluate you at both the mid-point and completion of the experience, and participate in a final debriefing (via phone, e-mail or in person) with you and your OSU faculty supervisor.
- Write a paper at the end of the field experience. This paper should include your reflections about the position, what you gleaned from this experience, how your goals were met, and in what ways this position shaped your professional objectives.
THE DIRECTED, WRITTEN PROJECT

The Directed, Written Project requires you to identify a topic from the field of Gerontology which you will investigate. The outcome of this experience must be a research based product (e.g., curriculum, research paper, series of fact sheets, grant proposal, article for submission to a gerontology-focused publication). The general requirements for this project mandate that you:

- Identify an OSU Gerontology faculty member, with direction from Dr. Whitney Bailey, whom will oversee your written project.
- Enroll in three (3) credit hours of HES 5240 Master’s Creative Component
- Along with your faculty supervisor, create the specific goals and expectations of the experience. You are expected to complete the Directed Written Project Contract with the faculty supervisor BEFORE the experience begins. This contract should be turned into the Creative Component Coordinator (Dr. Whitney Bailey). You and your faculty supervisor should keep a copy of the contract.
- Complete all requirements stated in the contract.

NOTE: The directed, written project is expected to require a time commitment comparable to the field experience requirement.

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