

WSU Curriculum Proposal Form – New Requirement

General Information

RO Intake Number	1038
Working Name	Graduate Certificate in Prevention Science
Date Submitted	09/24/25
CSC Number	051
Status	Assigned CSC Number
Department	Department of Human Development
Dept Chair Email	kory.floyd@wsu.edu
Dean Email	nancy.deringer@wsu.edu
New Requirement Type	Add GRADUATE Certificate

Program Information

Certificate Title	Graduate Certificate in Prevention Science
Program (Grad Degree)	
Plan Title (Optional)	
CIP Code	51.2212
Campus	Pullman, Spokane, Tri Cities, Vancouver
Effective Date	Fall 2026
Catalog Copy	

Contacts and Approvals

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Dept Chair Approval	Approved
Chair Date	09/24/25
Dept Dean Approval	Approved
Dean Date	09/26/25
CSC Approved	N/A
Community Review Complete	
Committee Approved	
Faculty Senate Approved	

Graduate Certificate in Prevention Science

Certificate Description and Rationale

The Graduate Certificate in Prevention Science is administered by faculty from the interdisciplinary Prevention Science Graduate Program, housed in the Department of Human Development within the College of Agriculture, Human, and Natural Resources Sciences (CAHNRS). The Prevention Science Graduate Program is offered in collaboration with the Colleges of Communication, Education, Medicine, and Nursing, as well as WSU Extension. Faculty with expertise in prevention science are located in units across campuses and collaborate in both research and the administration of the interdisciplinary Prevention Science Graduate Program. Prevention Science faculty members' responsibilities and workload will not significantly change because of this certificate, as the established course rotation schedule will be maintained (i.e., additional course offerings/sections are not required). The proposed graduate certificate has been reviewed and approved by vote from the members of the Prevention Science Graduate Faculty in February 2025.

The Graduate Certificate in Prevention Science provides advanced knowledge and training in conducting basic research on risk and protective factors, and the development, evaluation, and dissemination of evidence-based programs to promote the well-being of people across the lifespan. This certificate involves completion of 12 graduate-level credit hours through relevant coursework with an emphasis on the application of Prevention Science concepts to community-based, state, national, and international contexts. This certificate is available to any WSU graduate student who meets the course prerequisites, including students pursuing a master's and/or PhD. In Prevention Science. The Prevention Science doctoral program began in Fall 2012 and has enrolled an average of 35 doctoral students each academic year for the past ten years (see Table 1 for ten years of enrollment trends). Currently, our courses are primarily comprised of Prevention Science doctoral students; our recent course enrollments for the courses included in our proposal have ranged from 3 (Prev_Sci 511, Fall 2025) to 12 (H_D 560, Spring 2024). Lower enrollment has been driven primarily by changes to our funding structure for doctoral students, post-unionization. Still, we have consistently maintained overall high enrollment in our doctoral program, indicating continued interest in Prevention Science training at the graduate level. We anticipate that the creation of a Graduate Certificate in Prevention Science will drive higher enrollment trends for students in other degree programs.

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Student Enrollment Trends in Prevention Science Graduate Program, 2015 – 2025.

F15 – Sp16	F16 – Sp17	F17 – Sp18	F18 – Sp19	F19 – Sp20	F20 – Sp21	F21 – Sp22	F22 – Sp23	F23 – Sp24	F24 – Sp25
34	38	38	30	27	33	36	34	39	36

The certificate addresses growing state and national demand for prevention-oriented professionals in the social, behavioral, and health sciences, with critical knowledge of risk and protective factors; sensitive periods of development; and the ability to develop, implement, and evaluate evidence-based programs to support optimal well-being across the life course. Developing the advanced skill set offered by this certificate will increase students' marketability and position them as valuable contributors to their future employers through their ability to apply prevention frameworks and program evaluation skills to their specific context. This certificate is related to, but distinct from qualifications for becoming a certified Prevention Specialist in the state of Washington (see <https://www.pscbw.com/> for more information).

Furthermore, this certificate program fulfills a broader need in the university community to support the training of WSU graduate students in fields adjacent to prevention— often those seeking professional careers as faculty members, program evaluators, research analysts, and research associates in a range of settings including universities, research institutes, social service agencies, consulting firms, public health, and health care settings. Graduate students and faculty advisors outside of the Prevention Science doctoral program do not currently have a formal mechanism for identifying relevant complementary coursework that would significantly benefit their students. The proposed certificate is also a response to broader requests from the WSU community to provide a prevention-oriented certificate mechanism for students in other graduate programs (e.g., Nursing, Psychology, Veterinary Medicine). Finally, this certificate program can serve as a recruitment tool for new graduate students seeking enrollment in other doctoral programs with an additional interest in prevention science; the ability to complete additional training in prevention science in the form of a graduate certificate may help attract prospective students in Nursing, Psychology, Communication, and other related graduate programs.

We will take a multi-pronged approach to marketing and communication. With support from the Prevention Science graduate coordinator, we will: send emails to directors of all relevant programs at WSU; request the announcement gets posted in the graduate school's Friday Focus email newsletters; contact students enrolled in Prevention Science courses from other doctoral programs; and offer an annual information session and Q&A about the graduate certificate program. Upon approval, we will also notify all Prevention Science

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Graduate Faculty, current Prevention Science doctoral students, and the graduate program coordinator of the certificate program with details on the certificate program that can be disseminated to their WSU and external colleagues.

These benefits are in accordance with the WSU Graduate School guidelines for certificate programs. Moreover, this certificate complements a campus-wide strength and focal research area – supporting community and public health outcomes through community-based research and evidence-based programming. The certificate will be administered by the Director (Dr. Raven Weaver) and Program Coordinator (Callee Daily), supported by members of the Prevention Science Graduate Steering Committee, certificate sub-committee members (Drs. Nicole Scalise, Anne Cox, and Brittany Cooper), and faculty who teach courses in the proposed curriculum (recent instructors: Drs. Sammy Perone, Jennifer Duckworth, Yoshie Sano, Karen Anders, Theresa Bowden, Cory Bolkan, Elizabeth Weybright, and Amy Salazar).

Curriculum Description

The courses listed below cover essential topics in prevention science training at the graduate level (based on the Standards of Knowledge for the Science of Prevention, Society for Prevention Research, June 2011). Washington State University is uniquely positioned to offer graduate level courses in prevention science: our faculty have expertise in topics ranging from basic research on individuals, families, and their communities to the development, evaluation, and dissemination of scientifically based programs to promote the physical, social, and psychological well-being of individuals and their families; our faculty are interdisciplinary with broad representation across three WSU campuses and six units; our Prevention Science Graduate Program was the first of its kind in the nation; and our WSU Prevention Science Program has strong and ongoing ties to the preeminent international Society for Prevention Research (SPR). Moreover, there is high demand for graduates with knowledge of prevention science frameworks, risk and protective factors, and program development, implementation, and evaluation skills in academia and industry (Fishbein, 2021). The proposed graduate certificate draws from strengths in our doctoral program across colleges to meet local, state, and national prevention needs.

The proposed curriculum includes 12 credits (minimum) based on existing course offerings (see Table 2). The two required courses are offered on an annual basis and available across campuses. The optional courses are offered on a rotating schedule, typically bi-annually and available across campuses. All courses are offered in Prevention Science or Human Development, except one optional course in Nursing – as the Prevention Science graduate program operates as an interdisciplinary program, we have active participation from Nursing faculty and do not anticipate any issues. Students enrolled in the graduate

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certificate will take courses from two of the three doctoral core competency areas: (1) Developmental Epidemiology and Public Health and (2) Program Development, Implementation, and Institutionalization. Graduate students enrolled in other programs will be allowed to supplement their certificate with coursework from the third core competency area (Research Methods and Statistics), but it is not required for successful completion of the Prevention Science Graduate Certificate due to existing and discipline-specific methods coursework provided in other graduate programs. Students must complete one required course in each core area and select a second course from the available options. The core courses below have been taught regularly since the program's inception, while the optional courses have been taught on rotating schedule (e.g., every other Spring semester), and instructors have received strong course evaluations from past students. Each enrolled student would select the four courses that best fit their training and professional needs, in consultation with their doctoral advisor and the certificate coordinators.

Table 2

Prevention Science Certificate Course Options

Developmental Epidemiology and Public Health: Complete 1 required course and 1 optional course	
Course Title	Status
Prev_Sci 511: Introduction to Prevention Science	Required
H_D 550: Seminar on Family Relationships	Optional
NURS_FPC 414: Child and Family Health – Theory	Optional
H_D 560: Child Development	Optional
H_D 520: Adolescent Development	Optional
H_D 570: Adult Development	Optional
Program Development, Implementation, and Evaluation: Complete 1 required course and 1 optional course	
Course Title	Status
Prev_Sci 535: Effective Prevention Strategies I (Program Development)	Optional
Prev_Sci 538: Program Implementation	Optional
Prev_Sci 540: Effective Prevention Strategies II (Program Evaluation)	Required

Admission

The certificate will be open to students in any WSU graduate program, except the Prevention Science doctoral program (for whom the certificate coursework is redundant with required courses). Students not in degree programs may also earn the certificate by enrolling as non-degree students. There are no required prerequisite courses for

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enrollment in the Prev_Sci or H_D offerings; to enroll in NURS_FPC 414 students must complete prerequisite courses (NURS_FPC 308; NURS_FPC 322; NURS_FPC 324; NURS_FPC 325) and have concurrent enrollment in NURS_FPC 415. To qualify for the graduate certificate, a prospective student must have earned a Bachelor's degree from an accredited post-secondary institution. Students are required to maintain the minimum GPA requirement of at least 3.0 while enrolled in the certificate program.

For more information please contact:

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Raven Weaver, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Human Development; Director of the Prevention Science Graduate Program; raven.weaver@wsu.edu

References

Fishbein D. (2021). The pivotal role of prevention science in this syndemic. *Prevention Science*, 22(1), 94–99. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11121-020-01180-w>

Biglan, A., Domitrovich, C., Ernst, J., Etz, K., Mason, M. J., Robertson, E., Sloboda, Z. & Ulmer, L. (2011). Standards of knowledge for the science of prevention. *Fairfax, VA: Society for Prevention Research*.