

Family and Consumer Sciences CREDENTIALING CENTER

ASSESSING AND RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE SINCE 1971

December 1, 2015



Dr. Dianne F. Harrison, President
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California State University, Northridge
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Northridge, CA 91330-8230

Dr. Tami Abourezk, Interim Dean
College of Health and Human Development
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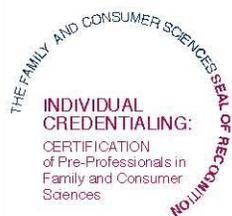


Dr. Tom Cai, Interim Chair
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences
SQ 141
California State University, Northridge
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Dear Dr. Harrison, Dr. Abourezk, and Dr. Cai:

In its November 20, 2015 meeting, the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences voted to grant accreditation to the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at California State University, Northridge. This action followed careful review and consideration of the Self-Study Report, the report of the site visit team, and the institution's response to the site visit report.



The Council for Accreditation commends the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and faculty members for providing high quality Family and Consumer Sciences programs. The following strengths are particularly noteworthy:

1. University and College administrators are supportive of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and appreciate the relevancy of the department and its programs to the mission of the University and College and to the betterment of the community. The administration is open to exploring and implementing opportunities to spotlight skill sets of Family and Consumer Sciences faculty members and students.
2. The University and College administrators are to be commended for their continuous efforts to enhance the work and learning space and to provide/maintain state of the art equipment for the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, especially in light of challenging economic times.
3. Faculty members are dedicated to students. The faculty recognizes and appreciates the varied learning styles and needs of traditional and non-traditional students of diverse backgrounds.



4. Faculty collaboration efforts in the areas of teaching, research/scholarly activity, and service, both within and outside of the Department, are outstanding. The Family and Consumer Sciences faculty members are active on campus, particularly in the areas of student services, professional development, and technology-based instruction. Overall, faculty members in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences are engaged citizens and positive representatives of the University.
5. The 14-semester hour Family and Consumer Sciences core of courses provides a creative and effective avenue, through which students in all options/patterns can interact with cohorts, develop an appreciation for the integrative, synergistic nature of the profession; and learn and apply the Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge.
6. The Body of Knowledge, including core concepts, integrative elements, and cross-cutting themes are clearly embedded in the curriculum beyond the Family and Consumer Sciences core. This theoretical foundation is valued by students, alumni, faculty members, internship supervisors, and employers.
7. FCS 494, the internship course required of all students, provides a culminating capstone experience in the professional setting where students are able to put theory into practice. The internship experience leads to affirmation of the student's choice of their Family and Consumer Sciences major and can lead to full-time employment after graduation.
8. Student and faculty diversity parallels that of the region that the university designated as Hispanic serving. This diversity assures success for students from a variety of demographic groups in family and consumer sciences programs.

The Council for Accreditation makes the following recommendations to strengthen compliance with accreditation standards and to assist in further enhancement of the programs in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences:

1. Continue to improve the quality of the unit's assessment of the strategic plan and the academic programs. In particular, emphasis should be placed on using data to revise and improve goals and student learning outcomes, i.e., "closing the loop". [Criterion: 2.2(3)]
2. Continue to implement the approved plan in which reliable information on Family and Consumer Sciences Program aggregated student achievement/performance data and other measures are updated at least annually and provided to the public on a timely basis utilizing the homepage of the Unit website. [Criteria 2.3(3); 4.2(2)]
3. Increase undergraduate student involvement in research and scholarly, scientific, and creative activities through course assignments, mentoring, and collaboration in faculty projects. [Criterion 3.1(5)]
4. Encourage faculty members and students to participate in AAFCS and other professional activities and organizations related to family and consumer sciences as well as subject matter areas at the local, state, regional, and national levels. Explore opportunities to secure new sources of funding to support faculty and student travel to professional conferences. {Criteria 3.2(6); 4.1(8)}

5. Clearly define the role and responsibilities of the Family and Consumer Sciences Option Coordinators through a formalized analysis of load assignment, qualifications, and performance expectations. [Criterion: 4.3(1a)]
6. Implement a plan to fill all open tenure-track faculty lines and increase tenure-track lines where possible to achieve a balance in the number of full-time tenure-track faculty members across all options. As new lines become available, place emphasis on hiring qualified faculty members with the options experiencing the greatest growth and/or within a full complement of full-time faculty members. [Criterion 4.3(2)]
7. Develop and implement a plan to increase the visibility of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and its programs on campus and beyond in order to enroll students in all options. Place special attention on the Family and Consumer Sciences Education option. [Criterion 4.4(1)]

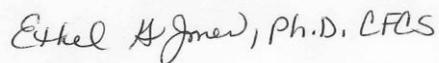
Actions taken in response to these recommendations are to be described in the Unit's first interim report which shall be submitted in 2018. You will receive notification of the specific date the report will be due to arrive in the Office of Accreditation for consideration during the Council for Accreditation's subsequent meeting.

Accreditation is granted by the Council for Accreditation for a period of ten years. Any extension and/or provisional accreditation periods are counted as part of the ten-year period. Therefore, this accreditation expires Fall 2023. The next Self-Study Report will be due February 1, 2022.

When accreditation is granted, the Unit is eligible to use the AAFCS Seal of Accreditation. This seal indicates that the Unit has been found to meet or exceed stated criteria and can be used in all communications, both print and electronic. You will be sent an electronic file containing the seal graphic with protocol-for-use.

Members of the Council for Accreditation join us in congratulating you and the faculty on the quality of programs offered by the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. This comes with our good wishes for continued success of the programs.

With best wishes,



Ethel G. Jones, Ph.D., CFCS
Chair, Council for Accreditation



Gay Nell McGinnis, CFCS, Director
Credentialing, Professional Development, and
Research

Cc: Dr. Anu Thakur
Dr. Lauren Julian