

# Family and Consumer Sciences CREDENTIALING CENTER

ASSESSING AND RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE SINCE 1971

May 4, 2015

Dr. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffin, President  
Fort Valley State University  
1005 State University Drive  
Ft. Valley, GA 31030

Dr. Govind Kannan, Dean  
College of Agriculture, Family Sciences  
and Technology  
Fort Valley State University  
1005 State University Drive  
Ft. Valley, GA 31030

Dr. Vivian Fluellen, Chair  
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences  
103 Houston Stallworth Building  
Fort Valley State University  
1005 State University Drive  
Ft. Valley, GA 31030

Dear President Griffin, Dean Kannan, and Dr. Fluellen:

In its April 23, 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 Fort Valley State University. 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. Family and Consumer Sciences faculty members are dedicated, committed, and go the extra mile to meet the needs of students. This sentiment was expressed by students, faculty members from supporting disciplines, alumni, and employers.
2. The Unit is a member of the Family and Consumer Sciences Distance Instructional Alliance (FCS-DIA) that offers courses for the Certified Financial Planner Certificate. The Alliance was created by the Family and Consumer Sciences units at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. This represents the first online collaboration of its kind for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's). The program is approved by the Certified Financial Planners Board of Standards and is reviewed annually by the Certified Financial Planners for renewal.



3. University and College administrators are to be commended for their continued support to enhance the work and learning space, and to provide funding for state-of-the-art equipment for the Family and Consumer Sciences Unit.
4. Students value the educational experiences and acknowledge the extra effort by faculty members to facilitate involvement in extraordinary learning activities.
5. The Unit Chair has made extraordinary strides in addressing several major challenges facing the Unit in spite of a heavy teaching, outreach, student advising, and support activities load.
6. The faculty members and Unit Chair are to be commended for demonstrating collaborative efforts in creating a Unit Strategic Plan that they will be updating/improving using assessment data.

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. Based on the departmental transformational vision and strategic plan, implement activities with clearly defined benchmarks for the future of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences taking into consideration: a) university and college plans, b) initiatives for enhanced research and global engagement, c) enhanced scholarly involvement of faculty and students through research participation, and d) facilities, technology, and equipment acquisition to meet the changing nature of program offerings. [Criteria 1.1(1); 1.2(2); 1.2(3)]
2. Re-instate an advisory committee with by-laws that identify responsibilities including: involvement in the planning and assessment process, recruitment efforts for students and diverse faculty members, and the promotion of departmental programs with various audiences. [Criteria 1.2(5); 1.2(6); 4.3(1); 4.4(1)]
3. Review the workload of the Chair in light of the current and future changes in program directions, addressing the critical issues of program production, discipline accreditation, and the need to expand external funding sources. [Criterion 1.4(3)]
4. Reflect on the long term viability and sustainability of the Family and Consumer Sciences Unit, and enhance the allocation of resources in line with current and projected enrollment trends; including the need for expanded technology integration, inclusion of research, and expansion of outreach. [Criteria 1.5(2); 1.5(4); 1.5(7)]
5. Update on an annual basis the approved plan in which reliable information on the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences aggregated student achievement/performance data and other measures are provided to the public in a timely fashion. [Criteria 2.2(1); 2.2(3)]

6. As faculty positions within the Family and Consumer Sciences Unit become available, recruit full-time, tenure-track faculty members to consistently offer instruction, provide for diversity in instructional offerings in each program, reduce the dependence on adjunct faculty members, enhance research and other scholarly activities of the Unit, and support involvement in professional development opportunities. [Criteria: 2.3(3); 3.3(1); 3.2(1); 4.2(2); 4.3(3)]
7. Ensure that the workload of all faculty members is commensurate with the workload policy of the Unit so that there is consistency related to the types of courses and programs offered, students served, professional development opportunities available, and other professional responsibilities and services provided by faculty members. [Criterion 4.2(2)]
8. Establish and implement the Unit's recruitment plan so that a critical mass of students is enrolled in each of the programs to sustain viable programs for interactions among students in the Unit. [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 year three (2018) of accreditation. You will receive notification of the specific date the report will be due to arrive in the Office of Accreditation for consideration in 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 Spring 2021. The next Self-Study Report will be due September 1, 2020.

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,



Billie J. Collier, Ph.D.  
Chair, Council for Accreditation



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