Dear President Morehead and Dean Fox:

In its October 22, 2020 meeting, the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences voted to grant accreditation to the College of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Georgia. 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 Family and Consumer Sciences faculty members for providing high quality Family and Consumer Sciences programs. The following strengths are particularly noteworthy:

1. The Dean of the College is highly respected by University Administration, faculty, alumni, and students. She is visible, approachable, and responsive. She is commended for her ability to stay abreast of future needs regionally and nationally related to individual, family, and community well-being, as well as University initiatives, mobilizing the faculty to take advantage of opportunities to advance the mission of the College.

2. Faculty members are dedicated to providing excellence in the field of family and consumer sciences. They are highly committed to quality instruction, the generation of new knowledge through research, securing external funding, and engaging in outreach programming.

3. The faculty are student centered, serving as role models and mentors, and are committed to assisting students in reaching their career goals, objectives, and aspirations.

4. The college is supported by alumni, industry, community, and regional professionals who assist in creating partnerships which provide experiential learning opportunities, equipment, and resources to advance the mission of the College.

5. The Unit offers exceptional resources to the community with robust student involvement, such as the VITAL program and the ASPIRE center.

6. The students are enthusiastic about their programs of study, opportunities for experiential learning, and their preparation for post graduate internships, graduate and professional schools, and careers in the field.
7. The Student Success and Advising Center provides a wide array of services, promoting student progress and, as noted by the Provost, is a model for the rest of the University.

8. The Unit is well-grounded not only currently but historically in the mission of the field of Family and Consumer Sciences, providing its students both a breadth and depth of undergraduate programs in this field.

9. The Unit has clearly identified Unit goals, processes to assess progression towards its Unit goals, and a mechanism to respond to this assessment.

10. The Unit engages in meaningful, systematic evaluation of its mission, goals, and academic programs while actively seeking input from Unit stakeholders including students, faculty members, university administration, community partners, and advisory boards.

11. Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of experiential education opportunities (service-learning, global learning (study away), internship, research experience and/or leadership classes), and each student’s specific career goals, financial situation, and time restraints are considered.

12. The unit offers opportunities for student engagement in the form of active student organizations, student activities, and student participation in research and outreach.

13. The Unit faculty members, administrators, and staff are committed to acknowledging, respecting, and seeking diversity in faculty, staff, and students.

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

1. Develop and implement a plan to make all spaces ADA compliant (i.e. quantity foods and adjoining food prep labs). [Criterion 1.5(7)]

2. Provide a mechanism for students to make the connection between content specific courses and the Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge throughout each curriculum. [Criteria 2.1(1); 2.1(2); 2.1(3)]

3. Review the core courses (FACS 2000, HDFS 2100, FHCE 2100) to ensure that each course includes a component that specifically addresses the connection between the course content and the Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge and ensure student learning in FACS 2000 is comparable between the face-to-face and online courses. [Criteria 2.1(1); 2.1(2); 2.1(3); 2.4(2)]

4. Build on the current assessment of student learning outcomes to include at least one student learning outcome per academic program that specifically addresses an understanding of the Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge. [Criterion 2.2(1)]
5. Review and align each program’s policies on culminating experiences to ensure every undergraduate student has a capstone experience with clearly defined objectives and student learning outcomes under the supervision of a qualified faculty member/field supervisor. [Criteria 2.3(1); 2.3(2); 2.3(3); 2.3(4)]

6. Provide faculty in-service education to enhance faculty members’ understanding of the Body of Knowledge so that student learning, understanding, and comprehension is reinforced. [2.1(1); 2.1(2); 2.1(3)]

7. Update, at least annually, the public reporting of reliable and accurate Family and Consumer Sciences Program, aggregated student achievement/performance data, and other outcome measures. Publish on the Unit website no more than two clicks from the home page. To prepare the update, use the information found in the CFA template. [Criteria 2.2(1); 2.2(3)]

8. Consider creating additional common space for students to gather and interact across program areas. [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 (2024) of accreditation. You will receive notification of the specific date the report will be due 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 2030. The next Self-Study Report will be due February 1, 2029.

When accreditation is granted, the Unit is eligible to use the Council for Accreditation 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 College of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Georgia. This comes with our good wishes for continued success.

With Best Wishes,

Amy Yates, Ph.D., LMFT, CFLE
Chair – Council for Accreditation
Lori Myers, Ph.D., CFCS
Senior Director: Credentialing, Education & Research