

Family and Consumer Sciences CREDENTIALING CENTER

ASSESSING AND RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE SINCE 1971

November 21, 2014



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Dr. Chancellor Ukpolo, Dr. Shujaa, Dr. Adegboye, and Dr. Wanga:



In its November 7, 2014 meeting, the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences voted to grant accreditation to the Department of Child Development and Family Studies at Southern University at New Orleans. 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 Child Development and Family Studies and faculty members providing for high quality Family and Consumer Sciences programs. The following strengths are particularly noteworthy:

1. The Child Development and Family Studies Department provides a quality curriculum that incorporates the Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge, supports faculty professional development opportunities, and advocates for students and their needs.
2. The teamwork and support shown by Dean Mwalimu Shujaa, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development is exemplary. Dr. Wanga's expertise and passion in fulfilling the mandate to create a new and accredited department is exceptional.

3. The Unit has established a respected academic program that meets the needs of the community and is integral to the mission and strategic plan of the institution.
4. The Unit has developed concise short-range and long-range goals to guide planning and assessment.
5. The Unit has a dedicated faculty committed to student needs and success.
6. The Unit does an excellent job of tracking and communicating with graduates, and job placement is high.
7. There are significant faculty development opportunities at the institution.
8. Faculty and student community service and outreach activities are outstanding.

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 Child Development and Family Studies:

1. Develop a mission statement specific to the Unit and approved by faculty members that guides departmental and resource decisions both within the Unit and by central and upper administration. [Criteria 1.1; 1.2]
2. Identify outcome measures by which the Unit assesses sufficiency of resources. [Criterion 1.5(rdl)]
3. Continue to implement the plan in which reliable information on Department of Child Development and Family Studies aggregated student achievement/performance data and other measures are updated at least annually and provided to the public on a timely basis using the homepage of the Unit website. [Criteria 2.2(1); 2.2(3)]
4. Provide a written plan of how students' mastery of pre-determined outcomes is assessed. [Criterion 2.2(2)]
5. Provide specific information on how the Unit uses assessment data to make changes in teaching and learning activities. [Criterion 2.2(3)]
6. Clarify how distance education courses are assessed for their effectiveness. [Criterion 2.4(4)]
7. Hire additional administrative support staff and faculty members with expertise aligned with the Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge and the family studies specialty. [Criteria 1.5(3); 2.1(1-3); 4.1(1-2)]
8. Ensure that all faculty members have educational preparation/sufficient professional experience relevant to their teaching responsibilities. [Criterion 4.1(1,4(5))]

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 (2017) 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'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 2024. The next Self-Study Report will be due September 1, 2023.

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 information.

Members of the Council for Accreditation join us in congratulating you and the faculty on the quality of programs offered by the Department of Child Development and Family Studies. 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
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