October 30, 2017

Dr. Nancy Kleniewski, President  
301 Netzer Administration Building  
SUNY Oneonta  
Oneonta, NY 13820

Dr. Jan Bowers, Dean  
College of Education & Human Dev.  
373 Fitzelle Hall  
SUNY Oneonta  
Oneonta, NY 13820

Dr. Jennifer Bueche, RD, CDN, Chair  
Department of Human Ecology  
2050 Human Ecology Building  
SUNY Oneonta  
Oneonta, NY 13820

Dear Dr. Kleniewski, Dr. Bowers, and Dr. Bueche:

In its October 25, 2017 meeting, the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences voted to grant accreditation to the Department of Human Ecology at SUNY Oneonta. 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 Human Ecology and faculty members for providing high quality Family and Consumer Sciences programs. The following strengths are particularly noteworthy:

1. The President, Provost, and colleagues across the SUNY Oneonta campus respect the Department of Human Ecology.

2. The Department Chair and Dean of the School are dedicated, have strong leadership skills, and are committed to excellence.

3. Faculty members create a learner-friendly environment and provide quality advising, mentoring, and instruction; and are dedicated to the success of the students.

4. The students are professional, extremely focused, and take advantage of opportunities made available to them such as collaborative research, study abroad, and community outreach.

5. Faculty members are effective in grant writing and partnering with business, government, and non-profit organizations to assure resources and equipment are available to enhance the quality of programs.
6. Faculty members provide a variety of opportunities for internships with clearly defined policies and procedures.

7. Alumni and professionals in the region are supportive of the program.

8. The university, college, and the Department of Human Ecology have a strong commitment to community engagement.

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 Human Ecology:

1. Connect the linkages between the department’s long and short-term goals and objectives and the College’s strategic plan. [Criterion 1.2(3)]

2. Routinely assess the department’s goals and use the results for increased department effectiveness and provide evidence (examples, illustrations, etc.). [Criterion 1.2(6)]

3. Ensure that the complexity and size of the department are considered when determining the workload of the chair. [Criterion 1.4(3)]

4. Develop and implement an assessment plan that clearly identifies targeted levels of achievement for all curriculum (program) goals and provide evidence (examples, illustrations, etc.). [Criterion 2.2(1)]

5. Establish linkages between individual curricula and the Human Ecology Core and the Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge and provide evidence (examples, illustrations, etc.). [Criterion 2.2(2)]

6. Implement a plan to facilitate students’ and faculty members’ understanding of the relationship among the core concepts, integrative elements, and cross cutting themes of the Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge and provide evidence of effectiveness (examples, illustrations, etc.). [Criterion 2.2(2)]

7. Update at least annually the public reporting of reliable Department of Human Ecology aggregated student achievement/performance data and other outcome measures. [Criteria 2.2(1); 2.2(3)]

8. Provide culminating experiences for all programs. [Criterion 2.3(1)]

9. Encourage all tenure-track and tenured faculty members to be involved in scholarly activity. [Criteria 3.1(1); 4.1(3)]

10. Provide expanded opportunities and funding for students to participate in professional organizations. Encourage students to take advantage of campus resources to fund participation in professional conferences. [Criteria 3.2(6); 4.4(7)]

11. Require new hires in tenure-track, lecturer, and adjunct positions to have appropriate qualifications. [Criteria 4.1(1); 4.2(5)]
12. Ensure that all faculty members have the appropriate credentials and teach within their area of graduate specialization or be provided with opportunities to gain expertise in the assigned area. [Criterion 4.1(5)]

13. The evidence shows that not all faculty members are engaged in scholarly activity. Therefore, implement a plan in which faculty teaching loads provide adequate time for scholarly activity. [Criterion 4.2(3)]

14. Implement strategies to retain faculty members in Fashion and Textiles to ensure program continuity. [Criterion 4.3(1a)]

15. Document outcome measures by which the program assesses its success in achieving a diverse faculty and staff. [Criterion 4.3(7)]

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 (2020) 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 Fall 2027. The next Self-Study Report will be due September 1, 2027.

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 Human Ecology. This comes with our good wishes for continued success of the programs.

With Best Wishes,

W. Jeff Hinton, Ph.D.  
Lori Myers, Ph.D., CFCS  
Chair – Council for Accreditation  
Senior Director: Credentialing, Education & Research