

# Family and Consumer Sciences CREDENTIALING CENTER

ASSESSING AND RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE SINCE 1971

October 25, 2019



Dr. James E. Clark, President  
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300 College Street, NE  
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Dr. Frederick M.G. Evans, Dean  
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Dr. Maria James, Acting Chair  
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences  
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Dear President Clark, Dean Evans, and Acting Chair James:

In its October 24, 2019 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 South Carolina 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 Family and Consumer Sciences faculty members for providing high quality Family and Consumer Sciences programs. The following strengths are particularly noteworthy:



1. The Unit is effective in integrating and infusing the Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge into the total curricula.
2. The Unit Interim Chair (appointed chair July 2019) is to be commended for being a highly skilled and effective leader who has the respect of University administrators, Unit faculty members, students, and alumni.
3. The Unit is well regarded on campus by students, faculty members, and all levels of administrators, and it is vital in fulfilling the institution's 1890 land-grant mission. The Unit is also well regarded by community stakeholders and alumni.
4. The faculty is to be commended for enduring heavy teaching and advising loads and for working cohesively, and with excellence, to prepare students for professional careers in the field.



5. The faculty is to be commended for engaging in outreach activities that are consistent with the mission of the Unit and that contribute to the advancement of family and consumer sciences practice.
6. Students are engaged, articulate, passionate about their discipline, and respected by faculty members in supporting disciplines.
7. Students commended the Interim Chair and faculty members for having an open-door policy and for creating a welcoming family environment in the Unit.
8. The Unit has an Advisory Council/Nutrition Task Force that provides input on programs, activities, and outreach.
9. The Unit operates an accredited Child Development Learning Center that is well-staffed and effectively serves its academic and research programs, the University, and the community.

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

1. In light of future personnel and organizational changes, ensure the Unit identifies priorities and that these are reflected in short- and long-range goals. Ensure these goals also reflect the mission of the Unit and the strategic plan of the institution. [Criteria 1.2(4); 1.2(6)]
2. Implement more refined processes to systematically and periodically assess Unit goals. Include measurable goals, benchmarks, assessment tools, and a plan for routine collection and analysis of data. Review results annually to formulate goals for the next year and further improve the system of evaluation. [Criteria 1.2(4); 1.2(6)]
3. Enhance stability of the Unit by securing a permanent chair, ensuring that the workload allocates sufficient time to accomplish the administrative functions needed to support the mission and goals of the Unit. [Criterion 1.4(3)]
4. Ensure that the faculty, staff, and financial resources of the Unit are adequate to support programs. [Criterion 1.5(2)]
5. Secure funds through available 1890 facilities program, capacity building grant programs, and other sources to enhance the physical resources of the Unit by updating laboratory equipment particularly in the food preparation area as well as the classroom spaces. [Criterion 1.5(4)]
6. Ensure that the program has adequate space and financial allocations are made for maintenance of the facility including installing an elevator in Staley Hall to provide student accessibility and to comply with ADA requirements. [Criteria 1.5(7); 4.4(8)]

7. Using identified specific outcome measures tied to a) curriculum goals, b) student learning outcomes, c) Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge, and d) Unit mission, use assessment data to make informed decisions related to student learning. [Criteria 2.2(1); 2.2(2); 2.2(3)]
8. Update at least annually the public reporting of reliable Department of Family and Consumer Sciences aggregated student achievement/performance data and other outcome measures. [Criteria 2.2(1); 2.2(3)]
9. Consider reviving the Family Financial Planning online certificate program to enhance student career options and increase enrollment. Explore new options in Sports Nutrition and Hospitality/Culinary Arts. [Criteria 2.4(1); 4.4(1)]
10. Support faculty and student engagement in outreach activities that are consistent with the mission and goals of the Unit and that contribute to the generation of new knowledge and advance family and consumer sciences practice. [Criteria 3.2(1); 3.2(2)]
11. Work closely with Admissions and the new Vice President for Institutional Advancement and University Relations to market and enhance visibility of the Unit in order to increase enrollment. [Criterion 4.4(1)]
12. Continue to work with University administrators to fill vacant faculty positions and acquire new tenure-track lines to bring faculty teaching loads in line with University policy. Doing so will enable the Unit to reduce the number of overloads some faculty teach (which does not appear to be a sustainable strategy), while also allowing for enrollment growth. Recruit future faculty members with the earned doctorate who are eligible for the tenure track. [Criteria 4.1(1); 4.2(2); 4.2(3); 4.2(6); 4.3(1a)]
13. Continue to work with University administrators to fill vacant faculty positions and acquire tenure-track eligible professionals so that there is a diversity in academic ranks that is appropriate for the Unit's programs. [Criterion 4.3(4)]

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 (2023) 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 2029. The next Self-Study Report will be due February 1, 2028.

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 at South Carolina State University. This comes with our good wishes for continued success.

With best wishes.



Ani Yazedjian, Ph.D.  
Chair – Council for Accreditation



Lori Myers, Ph.D., CFCS  
Senior Director: Credentialing,  
Education & Research