

# Family and Consumer Sciences CREDENTIALING CENTER

ASSESSING AND RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE SINCE 1971

May 1, 2014



Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover, President  
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Dr. Chandra Reddy, Dean and  
Director of Research and Extension  
College of Agriculture, Human and  
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Dr. Chiquita Briley, Interim Head  
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences  
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Dear Dr. Baskin Glover, Dr. Reddy, and Dr. Briley:

In its April 24, 2014 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 Tennessee 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 high quality Family and Consumer Sciences programs. The following strengths are particularly noteworthy:

1. The reorganization of the teaching, research, and extension faculty members into a single unit is an important strategic decision that promotes the integration of these functions and results in program enhancement and advancement.
2. The alumni, employers, and intern supervisors were positive and supportive of the faculty members and students.



3. Faculty members' commitment and dedication to the program is evident in student interactions and support, perseverance in the face of decreasing resources, and an overall atmosphere of enthusiasm.
4. Given the size of the faculty and the overall faculty loads, the amount of extramural funds for research and other programmatic activities is commendable.
5. The Early Learning Center and the Child Care Center are strategic assets that can be used to foster additional cooperative working relationships internally and externally, thereby enhancing enrollment and diversity within the centers.
6. Student and faculty member engagement is noteworthy and should be expanded to provide greater visibility and potential for increased student enrollment.
7. The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences faculty is diverse based on professional expertise, ethnicity, gender, nationality, and age.
8. The College and University administrators are knowledgeable of the programs in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, understand the needs, and support program recasting as appropriate.
9. Within the institutional assessment framework, faculty members in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences have developed Unit assessment programs and activities that are recognized by the campus administration.
10. The recently retired administrator is to be commended for devoting 10 years of her professional career to providing leadership for the department.
11. Unit faculty members have agreed to increase the introductory course, FCS 1010, from one to two hours to strengthen students' understanding of the Family and Consumer Sciences body of knowledge.
12. Faculty members are revising the exit examinations to assure reliability and validity.
13. The Unit appears to place students in internship settings where likely job possibilities exist.

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. Develop a clear and succinct vision for the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences that allows for the restructuring/refocus of the current strategic plan thereby increasing its achievability and desired program impact Give consideration to:
  - Strategic activities that are focused on increasing enrollment, enhancing retention, and increasing graduation rates.
  - Marketing and communication of the program to include avenues to reach a variety of stakeholders.
  - Development of specific plans for facilities renovation and equipment upgrade inclusive of the use of appropriate technology.
  - Specific future program foci in order to prioritize long- and short-term goals and objectives.[Criteria 1.2(2); 1.2(3); 1.2(4); 1.5(4); 1.5(7)]
2. Schedule consistent meeting times for faculty committees and the advisory board. [Criterion 1.2(5)]
3. Update and clarify the role, scope, and responsibility of the Advisory Board in preparation for its reactivation so that members become active participants in program enhancement, student achievement, marketing, and communication. [Criterion 1.2(5)]
4. Assess the administrative load of the Department Head in relation to the need to strategically facilitate new and expanded directions for the Unit. [Criterion 1.4(3)]
5. Consider recognizing program coordinator positions with modest stipends or release time. [Criteria 1.3(2); 1.4(3)]
6. Develop and implement strategies for garnering additional financial resources to enhance administrative and technical support, and the operation of laboratories in all program areas including technology enhanced instruction. [Criteria 1.5(2); 1.5(3)]
7. Address low pass rates on the Praxis exam for child development, working collaboratively with the College of Education to correct this issue. [Criterion 2.2(2)]
8. Implement a plan in which reliable information on Department of Family and Consumer Sciences aggregated student achievement/performance data and other measures are provided to the public on a timely basis utilizing the homepage of the Unit website. [Criteria 2.2(1); 2.2(3)]
9. Review the assessment processes of the culminating experience to include evaluation of the onsite supervisor. [Criterion 2.3(2)]

- 10 Assess the distance education offerings relative to market demand, needs of potential students, and a cost/benefit analysis. [Criterion 2.4(4)]
- 11 Reactivate student clubs and organizations thereby increasing opportunities for pre-professional development and networking, as well as campus and community visibility that could positively impact enrollment. [Criterion 4.4(7)]
- 12 In accordance with institutional policies, review faculty member load assignments to maximize productivity and the achievement of individual and Unit goals. [Criteria 4.2(2); 4.2(3); 4.2(4)]
- 13 Explore collaborating with other institutions to offer online courses to better accommodate non-traditional students. [Criterion 4.3(6)]

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 Spring 2023. The next Self-Study Report will be due February 1, 2022.

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 Family and Consumer Sciences. This comes with our good wishes for continued success of the programs.

With best wishes,



Alice A. Spangler, PhD, CFCS, RD  
2013-2014 Chair  
Council for Accreditation



Gay Nell McGinnis, MS, CFCS  
Division Director  
Credentialing, Professional Development, and  
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