

# Family and Consumer Sciences CREDENTIALING CENTER

ASSESSING AND RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE SINCE 1971



November 4, 2016

Dr. Baker Pattillo, President  
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1936 North Street  
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Dr. Judy Abbott, Dean  
James I Perkins College of Education  
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Dr. Lynda Martin, Director  
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Dear Dr. Pattillo, Dr. Abbott, and Dr. Martin:

In its October 26, 2016 meeting, the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) voted to grant accreditation to the School of Human Sciences at Stephen F. Austin 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 School of Human Sciences and faculty members for providing high quality Family and Consumer Sciences programs. The following strengths are particularly noteworthy:

1. Central administrators and the Dean of the James I. Perkins College of Education expressed understanding of and strong support for the mission of the Unit.
2. The School of Human Sciences is highly visible and well respected by students, alumni, internship supervisors, colleagues across the campus, and professionals in the community.
3. The Unit Director is recognized by University administrators, Unit faculty members, students, alumni, and internship supervisors as a skillful and effective leader committed to the enhancement of the School of Human Sciences.
4. Faculty members have ample opportunities to participate in Unit, College, and University governance and academic policies through the School of Human Sciences committees and institution-wide councils, committees, and legislative bodies.



5. The Unit is equipped with spacious laboratories featuring current equipment as well as attractive, recently renovated classroom and conference spaces which support the mission and goals of the Unit.
6. Faculty members are held in high esteem by students and alumni for their commitment to providing high quality educational experiences and individualized mentoring.
7. Faculty members encourage student involvement in professional organizations. Faculty members demonstrate and model leadership by actively participating in a variety of regional and national professional organizations.
8. The Unit's commitment to assessment of program learning outcomes is reflected in the measurement of results and use of results to improve programs.
9. The Unit offers more scholarships than any other school or department on campus. Scholarships contribute to the successful recruitment and retention of a highly qualified and diverse student body.
10. Several active student organizations provide multiple opportunities for students to develop and practice leadership skills.
11. The Self-Study Report was thorough and clearly written.

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 School of Human Sciences:

1. Develop a School of Human Sciences Strategic Plan with specific measurable Unit goals with identified targets which reflect the goals of the programs within the School and align with the College and University Strategic Plans. Establish related strategies, resources, timelines, and priorities to promote the continuing development of the Unit. [Criteria 1.1(5); 1.2(1); 1.2(2); 1.2(3); 1.2(4); 1.2(5); 1.2(6)]
2. Strengthen students' understanding of the Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge and the integrative, synergistic nature of the profession through high quality instruction in the common core courses and discipline specific courses. [Criteria 2.1(1); 2.1(2); 2.1(3)]
3. Develop appropriate culminating experiences that approximate the students' future professional practice for the Food, Nutrition and Dietetics students who do not complete HMS 420: *Practicum*. [Criteria 2.3(1); 2.3(2); 2.3(3); 2.3(4)]
4. Update at least annually the public reporting of reliable School of Human Sciences aggregated student achievement/performance data and other outcome measures. [Criteria 2.2(1); 2.2(3)]
5. Consistent with teaching responsibilities, continue to encourage all faculty members to pursue appropriate research and scholarly activities including grant writing. [Criteria 3.1(1); 3.1(2); 3.1(3)]

6. Request additional institutional resources as well as explore opportunities for external resources to increase the annual funding for professional development which supports and encourages the continuing enhancement of teaching, scholarship, and research by all faculty members. [Criteria 4.1(2); 4.1(6); 4.1(9); 4.1(10)]
7. Articulate a plan and identify specific targets to recruit and retain highly qualified professionals to enhance the diversity of the faculty who reflect the diversity of the student body and demonstrate diverse professional preparation and education within the field, including degrees from a variety of educational institutions. [Criteria 4.3(1c); 4.3(2); 4.3(5); 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 2019. Additional interim reports will be due in 2021 and 2024. You will receive notification of the specific date the report will be due to arrive in the Office of Accreditation for consideration during 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 2026. The next Self-Study Report will be due September 1, 2025.

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.

With Best Wishes,



Laura Stephenson, Ph.D.  
Chair – Council for Accreditation



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