

October 26, 2020

Dr. Renu Khator, President  
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Dr. Tony Ambler, Dean  
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Dr. Holly M. Hutchins, Chair  
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Dr. Barbara L. Stewart, CFCS  
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Dear Dr. Khator, Dr. Ambler, Dr. Hutchins, and Dr. Stewart:

In its October 22, 2020 meeting, the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences voted to grant accreditation to the Retailing and Consumer Science Program in the Department of Human Development and Consumer Sciences at the University of Houston. 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 Human Development and Consumer Sciences faculty members for providing high quality Family and Consumer Sciences programs. The following strengths are particularly noteworthy:

1. Upper and Central Administration are commended for their support of the Retailing and Consumer Science Program as evidenced by providing support for career counseling, marketing and outreach, and professional advising.
2. The College of Technology Dean is commended for his energy and visionary perspective in working with Upper Administration and Department Chairs to move the college forward in this age of technology.
3. The Department of Human Development and Consumer Sciences Chair is commended for her leadership and ability to collaborate with others across campus, being an excellent representative for the department and the Retailing and Consumer Science Program.

4. The Retailing and Consumer Science Program Coordinator is commended for her outstanding leadership; dedicated service to the Program, Human Development and Consumer Sciences, College of Technology, University of Houston and the Family and Consumer Sciences profession; willingness to mentor both faculty members and students; participation as a faculty team player; and achievements in teaching, research, and service at local, state, and national levels.
5. Faculty members are commended for seeking and being awarded grant funding to renovate Cameron Room 105, for their support of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Accreditation, and their recognition of the importance of industry partnerships and support.
6. Faculty members are commended for their willingness to share expertise with students, other faculty within and outside the Program, plus the global community in order to increase visibility; ensure sustainability of the Program; and support the vision of the Program, Department, College, University, and alumni.
7. Faculty members are commended for the solid reputation of embracing diversity and providing attention to needs of diverse students. Each interview reinforced the support, nurturing environment, and caring attitudes offered by the Retailing and Consumer Science faculty members.
8. Students are commended for their ability to articulate the practical applications of Family and Consumer Sciences, motivation to engage in leadership development, and willingness to take initiative for the growth and development of organizations and clubs.
9. The Retailing and Consumer Science Program is commended for involving institutional administrators, faculty members, advisory board members, students, and others in program planning and creative visioning for the future.
10. The Retailing and Consumer Science Program is commended for the respect earned across campus and being valued for contributions to the University and the Houston metropolitan community. Faculty and student outreach collaborations strengthen the Program/Department.
11. Faculty members are commended for their collegiality. Support, guidance, and mentoring relationships are evident, especially toward “new” faculty members and students.
12. Faculty members are commended for utilization of the Capstone course for internship enrichment data collection and assessment as well as for community outreach.
13. The Retailing and Consumer Science Program is commended for providing financial support for students’ participation in professional conferences.

The Council for Accreditation makes the following recommendations to strengthen compliance with accreditation standards and to assist in further enhancement of the Retailing and Consumer Science Program:

1. Develop a systematic process to align goals and strategic planning of the Unit with the mission statement, ensuring alignment with the mission statements of the university, college, and department. [Criteria 1.2(1); 1.2(2)]
2. Demonstrate evidence and success of marketing/recruitment strategies used to increase Retailing and Consumer Science student enrollment. [Criterion 1.5(3)]
3. Work with the university, the College of Technology, and the Department of Human Development and Consumer Sciences to develop and begin implementing a plan for updating office space, classrooms, and technology especially utilized in the computer laboratories. [Criterion 1.5(7)]
4. Devise, implement, and provide evidence of a plan demonstrating how the Retailing and Consumer Science faculty members enhance students' articulation of their relationship to the utilization of the Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge. [Criteria 2.1(1); 2.1(2); 2.1(3)]
5. Create and update, at least annually, the public reporting of reliable and accurate Family and Consumer Sciences Program aggregated student achievement/performance data, and other outcome measures. Publish on the Unit website no more than two clicks from the home page. To prepare the update, use the information found on the CFA template. [Criteria 2.2(1); 2.2(3)]
6. Provide evidence of continuing and increasing Retailing and Consumer Science research, creative activity, and interdisciplinary research. [Criteria 3.1(2); 3.1(4); 3.2(2); and 4.1(9)]
7. Develop and implement a plan to secure additional tenure-track faculty to allow faculty members to find time to spend on professional development and research/creative ideas. At least one additional faculty line would enhance the productivity of all faculty members, achieve diversity in faculty ranks, and work toward achieving the long-term goal of developing a quality Ph.D. program. [Criterion 4.2(1)]
8. Continue with current fund-raising activities; however, develop a plan to increase future funding for professional development activities and travel for faculty members, especially those in the early tenure-track period. [Criterion 4.2(8)]

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 (2024) 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 2030. The next Self-Study Report will be due February 1, 2029.

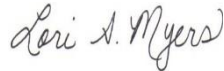
When accreditation is granted, the Unit is eligible to use the Council for Accreditation Seal of Accreditation. This seal indicates that the Unit has been found to meet or exceed stated criteria and can be used in all communications, both print and electronic. You will be sent an electronic file containing 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 Retailing and Consumer Science Program in the Department of Human Development and Consumer Sciences at the University of Houston. This comes with our good wishes for continued success.

With Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Yates".

Amy Yates, Ph.D., LMFT, CFLE  
Chair – Council for Accreditation

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori A. Myers".

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