Graduate Program Review  
Texas Tech University

Program Reviewed: Graduate Programs for FCS Education

Onsite Review Dates: April 13 & 14, 2015

Name of Reviewers

External: Jan Bowers, Dean of School of Education and Human Ecology

I. Academic Unit Description and Strategic Plan  
   A. The unit description and strategic plan are clearly presented.
   B. Suggested Areas of Improvement
      1. The program may benefit from including national level and work force development input on your advisory board.
      2. The program is encouraged to address additional national level needs for FCSE graduate programs. Please consider emphasizing how the masters level program aligns with national board teacher certification for out of state candidates who are being encouraged to obtain national board certification by their states and districts.
      3. The FCS role in K-12 schools may be strengthened by helping FCS teachers use the graduate program to prepare for K-12 administrative positions as a school principal or as a Career and Technical Education Director. Please consider identifying how the FCSE graduate programs articulate with career pathways for K-12 school administration.
      4. When you identify how your graduate programs articulate with national board teacher certification and K-12 school administration certification you may enhance marketing efforts and student enrollments.

II. Program Curriculum  
   A. The program has depth and breadth and is delivered through a well-organized schedule that is clearly communicated to students.
   B. Suggested Areas of Improvement
      1. It sounds as if some program implementation practices and courses may be used as a historical or traditional practice rather than as a deliberate best practice.
      2. Recent articles in the Chronicle of Higher Education have identified multiple strategies for facilitating job friendly doctorate programs, cutting time to complete degrees, clarifying the intent and use of written exams and new dissertation models that more closely align the dissertation
product with the work performance expectations of a program completer in a professional setting.

3. Consider streamlining program implementation processes and curriculum requirements to increase student access, reduce student cost, reduce student time to degree and reduce delivery costs. When you streamline processes and time to degree your funding for student support can be stretched to support more students and your costs to deliver the programs can be reduced which may help you maximize the most efficient use of your resources.

4. Some undergraduate and graduate programs are offering courses in differentiated instruction, rather than independent courses in multicultural education and exceptional learners to present a holistic approach for teaching.

III. Faculty Productivity
A. All faculty are qualified for their positions and are carrying full workloads and/or unpaid overloads as a result of their commitment to their profession. The Program Director is commended for her exemplary effort to provide state and national level leadership and service for FCSE. The Program Director is also commended for her role in mentoring the newest faculty team member for meeting campus tenure and promotion expectations.

B. Suggested Area of Improvement – All program faculty are encouraged to identify how they can best utilize their individual strengths to maximize the impact of their contributions for equitably developing and delivering the graduate programs.

IV. Students and Graduates
A. Time to Degree – Student interviews indicated that some students are ABD and struggling to finish their dissertations. This ABD situation is not unique to Texas Tech. To address this national level issue, the academy is identifying new dissertation models to facilitate time to degree and increase program completers. New dissertation models more closely align the dissertation product with the work performance expectations of a program completer in a professional setting.

B. Enrollment – The national level FCS workforce needs for program completers can sustain and increase enrollments. Current enrollments appear to be limited by resource availability for promoting and delivering the programs.

C. Support Services – Students reported that they are receiving excellent support services from their faculty.

D. Student/Faculty Ratio – The areas identified for needing improvement should improve with increased program faculty. The student/faculty ratio for the
dissertations has placed an excessive burden on the Program Director. Some students and the external reviewer are concerned about potential burn out for the Program Director and the Director’s long term ability to continue to perform on what appears to be an unpaid/overload basis.

E. Demographics – The faculty and student demographics are representative of the FCSE profession. The FCSE profession is attempting to increase diversity for the profession.

V. Facilities and Resources
A. Facilities – It may be easier for program faculty to work together if they were more closely located next to each other and to the curriculum center.
B. Facility Support Resources – Classrooms provide access to current technology and meet current facility standards.
C. Financial Resources – The Great Plains IDEA partnership appears to be playing a significant role in providing financial resources for the programs. Administration is commended for keeping the GPIDEA resources aligned with the graduate programs and is encouraged to initiate sustainable program growth with additional financial resources. Your program is encouraged to use your internal resources as a match with the state WorkForce Board to increase funding support for the graduate programs.

VI. Overall Ranking
A. Summative Conclusions
As a representative of the FCSE profession I am extremely grateful to the Texas Tech faculty and administration for the high quality of national service and professional preparation programs that you are providing for FCSE. The graduate programs are producing professional leaders for FCS who are quickly moving into officer positions. A review of your list of recent graduates reveals that one of your recent graduates has been selected to serve as a national officer for the Family and Consumer Sciences Education Association and another of your recent graduates has been selected to serve as a national officer for the Higher Education Unit of the American Association of FCS.
B. Summative Recommendations
1. Review the recent literature on new strategies for developing and delivering graduate programs. I believe you can streamline your program processes, reduce some credit requirements and still produce high quality program completers. New dissertation models more closely align the dissertation product with the work performance expectations of a program completer, reduce time to degree, reduce cost for degree obtainment, increase completion rates, and reduce costs for program delivery. The financial
benefits and cost savings generated by a streamlined program can be reinvested in the program to increase student enrollment capacity.

2. Expand the program’s advisory board membership to include a state FCSE supervisor, a representative from the State WorkForce Board, a K-12 administrator and a person who has worked with national board certification.

3. Investigate the Texas state plan for using federal Perkins funding to determine if it can be used to financially help support your three levels of FCSE programs. Adding a workforce board member to your program advisory committee may help pave the way to access Perkins funding for delivering your three levels of FCSE programs. You may also want to consider using campus financial support as a match to leverage financial support from the State WorkForce Board.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to learn more about your FCSE programs. As the National Director of the Family and Consumer Sciences Education Association and as the National Chair of the Higher Education Unit of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, I look forward to working with your faculty and program graduates on national initiatives that support FCSE.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jan Bowers, Dean
School of Education and Human Ecology
SUNY Oneonta
Graduate Program Review
Texas Tech University

Program Reviewed:

Onsite Review Dates:

Name of Reviewers
Internal:
Please include name, title, and Department

External:
Please include name, title, and Department

I. Academic Unit Description and Strategic Plan
Please evaluate the following by marking an X in one of the blanks for each item:

Vision, Mission and Goals
X Excellent ___ Very Good ___ Good ___ Needs Improvement

Strategic Plan
___ Excellent X Very Good ___ Good ___ Needs Improvement

Please comment on the positive components and suggested areas of improvement.

II. Program Curriculum
Please evaluate the following:

Alignment of program with stated program and institutional goals and purposes
X Excellent ___ Very Good ___ Good ___ Needs Improvement

Curriculum development coordination and delivery
___ Excellent X Very Good ___ Good ___ Needs Improvement

Program learning outcomes assessment
X Excellent ___ Very Good ___ Good ___ Needs Improvement
Program curriculum compared to peer programs

- Excellent  X Very Good  __ Good  ___ Needs Improvement

Please evaluate the following by marking an X in one of the blanks for each item:

III. Faculty Productivity

Please evaluate the following by marking an X in one of the blanks for each item:

Qualifications

X Excellent  __ Very Good  __ Good  ___ Needs Improvement

Publications

X Excellent  __ Very Good  __ Good  ___ Needs Improvement

Teaching Load

X Excellent  __ Very Good  __ Good  ___ Needs Improvement

External Grants

X Excellent  __ Very Good  __ Good  ___ Needs Improvement

Teaching Evaluations

__ Excellent  X Very Good  __ Good  ___ Needs Improvement

Professional Service

X Excellent  __ Very Good  __ Good  ___ Needs Improvement

Community Service

X Excellent  __ Very Good  __ Good  ___ Needs Improvement

Please comment on the positive components and suggested areas of improvement.

IV. Students and Graduates

Please evaluate the following by marking an X in one of the blanks for each item:

Time to degree

- Excellent  __ Very Good  X Good  ___ Needs Improvement
Retention
X Excellent ___ Very Good ___ Good ___ Needs Improvement

Graduate rates
___ Excellent ___ Very Good ___ Good X Needs Improvement

Enrollment
___ Excellent X Very Good ___ Good ___ Needs Improvement

Demographics
___ Excellent ___ Very Good ___ Good X Needs Improvement

Number of degrees conferred annually
___ Excellent ___ Very Good ___ Good X Needs Improvement

Support Services
___ Excellent X Very Good ___ Good ___ Needs Improvement

Job Placement
X Excellent ___ Very Good ___ Good ___ Needs Improvement

Student/ Faculty Ratio
___ Excellent ___ Very Good ___ Good X Needs Improvement

Please comment on the positive components and suggested areas of improvement

V. Facilities and Resources
Please evaluate the following by marking an X in one of the blanks for each item:

Facilities
X Excellent ___ Very Good ___ Good ___ Needs Improvement

Facility Support Resources
X Excellent ___ Very Good ___ Good ___ Needs Improvement

Financial Resources
___ Excellent X Very Good ___ Good ___ Needs Improvement

Staff Resources
___ Excellent X Very Good ___ Good ___ Needs Improvement
Please comment on the positive components and suggested areas of improvement

VI. Overall Ranking

Please provide summative conclusions based on the overall review.

Please provide summative recommendations based on the overall review.