

# Family and Consumer Sciences CREDENTIALING CENTER

Assessing and Recognizing Excellence Since 1971



November 21, 2014



Dr. Harold L. Martin, Sr., Chancellor  
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1601 East Market Street  
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Dr. William Randle, Dean  
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Dr. Valerie L. Giddings, Chair  
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Department of Family and Consumer Sciences  
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Dear Chancellor Martin, Dean Randle, and Department Chair Giddings:

In its November 7, 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 North Carolina A&T 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 providing high quality Family and Consumer Sciences programs. The following strengths are particularly noteworthy:

1. The Unit is unique on campus because of the integrating focus and inter-relationships of people and people within their environment.
2. The Chair of the Family and Consumer Sciences Unit is commended for providing excellence, direction and leadership resulting in the Unit having the largest enrollment in the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and the second largest producer of faculty and staff research.
3. The Unit has an active and engaged advisory board.

4. All 16 full-time faculty members are tenured or tenure-track and hold the earned doctorate; all adjunct faculty members have a master's degree in their assigned area of teaching.
5. Offering courses for the Certified Financial Planning Certificate online and through the Family and Consumer Sciences Distance Instructional Alliance is the first online collaboration of its kind for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and serves as a model for other programs to follow.
6. Between 2009 and 2012, 16 of the 21 funded faculty research projects included the involvement of undergraduate students.
7. The Unit supports strong orientation programs and activities for students; the Unit does an admirable job of recognizing student accomplishments.
8. Faculty members are involved extensively in professional organizations. Faculty members have a wide variety of experiences in higher education in professional practice.
9. Course assignments and participation in student organizations provide students with opportunities for interaction with various age groups, for outreach to community agencies, and for networking with professionals, all of which enhances the learning experience.
10. Faculty members are dedicated, committed, and go the extra mile to meet the needs of students. This was expressed by students, faculty members from other disciplines, alumni, and employers. This occurs even though the Unit faculty members carry heavy teaching loads within an environment of limited resources.
11. Students and faculty members accurately articulate an understanding of the Family and Consumer Sciences Body of Knowledge consisting of core concepts, integrative elements, and cross-cutting themes.

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. Articulate a vision and long-range transformational goals for the Unit beyond 2014.  
[Criteria 1.2(1); 1.2(2); 1.2(3)]
2. Include input from the Unit Chair and faculty members in the budgeting process.  
[Criteria 1.5(1); 1.5(2); 1.5(3)]
3. Fill the open position for support services, which has been vacant since 2010-2011.  
[Criterion 1.5(3)]

4. Continue to implement the approved plan in which reliable information on Department of Family and Consumer Sciences aggregated student achievement/performance data and other measures are updated at least annually and provided to the public on a timely basis using the homepage of the Unit website. [Criteria 2.2(1); 2.2(3)]
5. Complete the Program Assessment Plan to close the loop by analyzing data collected and revising as needed to make informed decisions. [Criterion 2.2(3)]
6. Ensure that all course syllabi clearly state measurable student learning outcomes. [Criterion 2.3(2)]
7. Clearly define the role and responsibilities of the Family and Consumer Sciences Program Coordinators and of the Unit Chair through a formalized process of analyzing load assignment, release time, and performance evaluation. [Criterion 4.3(1a)]
8. Assure that accessibility to all classrooms and laboratories is available for all students per ADA requirement. [Criterion 4.4(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 (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 Fall 2024. The next Self-Study Report will be due September 1, 2023.

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,



Billie J. Collier, Ph.D.  
Chair, Council for Accreditation



Gay Nell McGinnis, CFCS, Director  
Credentialing, Professional Development, and  
Research