

Program Review Process Experiment, 2007-2009 Self-Study Proposal

Academic Organization (Department): Family and Consumer Sciences	Academic Group (College): SSIS	Date: May 15, 2008
Department Chair: Dianne Hyson	College Dean: Otis Scott	Review Team Chair: Mary Jane Lee

Self-Study Option

<p>Option A ___</p> <p>Option B ___</p> <p>Option C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Hybrid of Options ___ (please provide brief description):</p>
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Approval signatures:

Department Chair: Dianne Hyson	Date: May 15, 2008
Review Team Chair: Mary Jane Lee	Date: May 16, 2008
College Dean: Otis Scott	Date: May 20, '08
Associate Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs: Miguel	Date: 5/21/2008

Distributions: Academic Affairs (original), Department Chair, College Dean, Review Team Chair. Dean's office to send original after approval to Academic Affairs, at mail zip 6016.

**Self-Study Proposal
Program Review
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences
May 14, 2008**

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences plans to adopt Option C: Focused Inquiry, as described on pp. 8-9 of the "Program Review Process Experiment" document as the model for its self-study.

Following the Option C format, our Self-Study will include three main sections:

I. "General information about the program, e.g., data on students, faculty, staff, facilities, etc. (most of which is supplied by Office of Institutional Research)"
The Office of Institutional Research has already provided the Department with a hardcopy of the relevant *Factbook* (also available electronically at the OIR website--- www.oir.csus.edu). The Department will contact OIR as to update data as needed during the self-study process.

II. "A statement of intended student learning outcomes at the program level; methods for assessing them, including the use of direct measures; assessment results to date; and documentation of the use of assessment results in efforts to achieve program improvement (assistance with the preparation of which is available from the University Assessment Coordinator)"

The Family and Consumer Sciences Department initiated an update and revision of the program student learning outcomes in spring 2006 and finalized these in spring 2007. The outcomes were revised to improve alignment with the institutional baccalaureate learning goals, refine and streamline the criteria for assessment and formulate both integrated and concentration-specific learning outcomes. The revised outcome criteria were developed with the input from the recently appointed campus and SISS assessment coordinators.

The FACS Department used indirect measures on a regular basis to assess program outcomes over the past 4 years. An exit survey is provided to all students in FACS 168 Senior Seminar to assess student perception of several criteria related to : 1) preparation in communication, 2) preparation in professional practice and 3) preparation in foundation knowledge. The results of these surveys were compiled and integrated with the results of direct assessment measures. The current exit survey is based on the program learning outcomes prior to the recent revision and will be updated to reflect the newly adopted student learning outcomes.

Direct assessment of selected program outcomes including performed in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. These assessments were based on the prior departmental outcomes and were focused primarily on writing and communication skills. In the 2007-08 academic year, the focus of the FACS department has been on finalizing the revised student learning outcomes and completing an assessment of one of these program learning outcomes using direct measures. A direct assessment of the outcome related to analytical thinking and effective problem solving ability is currently underway using the criteria of a demonstrated ability to:

- *Identify and assess a given problem*
- *Gather, organize and review data/information*
- *Develop an effective solution or strong argument*

The results of this and prior assessments and the demonstrated use of these results to improve the FACS program will be included in the self-study report. We are also working to formalize input from external advisors working with students in the community.

III. "The results of a *focused* inquiry addressing issues of particular interest/concern to the program itself, in the context of what is currently important to the college and university."

The Family and Consumer Sciences Department is facing several challenges due in part, to a need to contemporize the program and in part due to the lack of integration between the concentrations within the department. The current concentrations include: Consumer Sciences (currently suspended due to lack of majors), Family Studies (currently underenrolled with no growth pattern since the last review cycle), Food and Nutrition/Dietetics (strong enrolment and growth pattern) and Apparel Marketing and Design (strong enrolment and growth pattern). The department also offers a single subject credential degree which is underenrolled with a declining growth pattern.

During the recent revision of the program goals and student learning outcomes it became evident that while there was clear development of learning outcomes for individual concentrations, there are weak or nonexistent goals that successfully integrate the concentrations within the entire department. The area of particular concern to the department is the Family Studies concentration since growth in this area is stagnant and potentially declining. Traditionally, this concentration formed the basis of the family and consumer sciences discipline and was central to the identity and integration of the other concentrations.

Faculty discussion prompted the decision to conduct a focused inquiry into the disparity between various concentrations in the department, particularly the Family Studies area, in terms of growth and student demand and the lack of integrated goals to connect the various concentrations within the department. The basis of the focused inquiry will include a review of state and national trends in the family studies discipline, a needs assessment of community/employers/students, review and critique of current resources and program growth strategies, curricular review for content and responsiveness to trends and needs and a review and update of a master plan for the department. This inquiry will hopefully provide information that will help in the development of a plan to improve the strength of the Family Studies concentration, in particular, but also the department as a whole.

The Department plans to complete the Self-Study by the end of the Fall 2008 semester.