

Family Studies Program Review

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Program Assessment: Strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations from the reviewers.

Standard A: Mission Statement

Strengths:

- Exceptional job conferring and meeting with the advisory board to assess continued accomplishments.
- The program is well defined with strong course work.
- Mission statement is in alignment and supports the college and university.

Weaknesses/Threats: none

Recommendations: none

Standard B: Curriculum

Strengths:

- They have a strong curriculum which is practical and needed for certification and licensing.

Weaknesses/Threats:

- Currently many required courses are each offered at the same days and times as other required courses making it difficult for students "out of track" to complete all coursework in a timely manner.

Recommendations:

- Students expressed a need for staggered start times of courses and or online courses allowing for completion of required courses for students out of track.
- This program can meet several certifications. The Social and Service Worker (SSW) certification could be met by students taking 2 specific courses. Possibly require these two courses.

Standard C: Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment

Strengths:

- There is an emphasis within course content of the practical applications of the course content.
- There is a strong use of the advisory board to meet and know community needs.
- There is adherence to NCFR guidelines and the 10 content areas.
- There is a clear rubric outlining the measures and assessments.

Weaknesses/Threats:

- No documentation of faculty discussion of measures.

- The previous program review the department suggested they would make an online version of every course which has not happened.

Reccomendations:

- Need to provide results of the exit exam in practicum/seminar class.
- Previous program review offers some evidence of change, but little evidence of change of curriculum. For example, the addition of the two courses required for SSW certification.
- Faculty need to meet to discuss and assess the effectiveness of the measures to determine if student learning outcomes are being met.

Standard D: Academic Advising

Strengths:

- Students report excellent staff and faculty advising.
- Students receive ample assistance in career and graduate school options.

Weaknesses/Threats:

- Students are required to meet with an advisor for declaring a major and then assigned a faculty advisor. However, it is upon students to follow through to meet with faculty advisor. There is no system in place requiring meeting with faculty advisor.
- A few students mentioned not knowing about the SSW certification and how easily they could have earned it.

Recommendations:

- You may want to consider a system requiring further advising. It will provide opportunity for students to know of all options available to them.

Standard E: Faculty

Strengths:

- All faculty hold terminal degrees in content areas related to the program.
- There is evidence of diversity in experience and career backgrounds.
- The department keeps a log of all faculty and the different service committees/projects etc. each are involved in to assess time constraints etc.

Weaknesses/Threats:

- There are very few females teaching in the program.
- Most faculty are maxed out on overload. There is a concern in not having enough faculty to address teaching needs with the soon to be started emphasis on Family Studies in the Masters of Education program.
- New faculty report significant interaction with veteran faculty, but no formal mentoring.
- There is no formal procedure mentioned for annual review of faculty with the department chair.

Recommendations:

- Consider another faculty line to meet upcoming teaching demands
- Consider assigning a specific veteran faculty member to serve as mentor for each new faculty.
- Consider a formal review process at the end of each year where the department chair meets with each faculty to review progress towards tenure/promotion and overall success in the department.

Standard F: Support

Strengths:

- It appears the program has adequate resources to support their teaching and research efforts.

Weaknesses/Threats: none

Recommendations:

- Work more closely with the library to utilize the resources available there.

Standard G: Relationships with External Communities

Strengths:

- They have regular meetings (quarterly) with the advisory committee.
- The advisory committee was positive in their reporting about the program. They indicated the program receives and implements their feedback.

Weaknesses/Threats: none

Recommendations: none

Standard H: Results of previous reviews

Strengths: none

Weaknesses/Threats: none

Recommendations:

- Continue to work on accessibility of courses as either online or blended as addressed in prior program review.