

CPR Report Submitted!

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- 5 **Institution:** Columbus State University
- 6 **Review Status:** Non-triggered Review
- 7 **Degree level:** Bachelors
- 8 **Degree acronym:** BS
- 9 **Degree/Major:** BS in Exercise Science
- 10 **CIP Code:** 31050501
- 11 **College,**
11 **School/Division:** College of Education
- 12 **Department:** Counseling, Ed Leadership, and Professional Studies
- 13 **CPR Plan**
13 **followed:** Yes
- 14 **Future institutional**
14 **plans for program:** Maintain at present level
- 15 **Supplemental file:** ES BS Exec-Sum.doc
- 16 **File Type:** MS Word
- 17 **CPR Web site:** aa.colstate.edu/assess/cprtbl.htm

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR B.S., EXERCISE SCIENCE

Major Findings of the Program's Quality and Productivity

The B.S., Exercise Science degree program is a growing, vigorous, diverse program that is cost-effective and valuable to students and to the region. This program has been operated over the years with a minimum of faculty support and modest resources. The program has had an average of 82.75 declared majors from 2001-2005. It has the second highest annual graduation rate in the College of Education with an average of 15.25 degrees conferred each year (2001-2005). Graduation numbers are similar to Kennesaw State University (on a per capita basis), which is the only state college in Georgia other than CSU that has a program vigorous enough to essentially stand alone (Kennesaw has a Health Science component). Other institutions imbed Exercise Science in B.S.Ed. programs. Graduates have been widely accepted into Medical Schools and other graduate programs across the nation. In the last five years there have been 16 graduates accepted to traditional graduate programs, 13 accepted to medical programs, and 7 commissioned by the U.S. Army. Nineteen students have been employed in more traditional health/fitness occupations.

The curriculum has a strong elective component that allows students to select courses that best fit their professional/employment goals. This creates great flexibility and is student friendly but is advising-intensive and demands a major portion of the faculty member's non-instructional time. The sequencing/offering of courses is logical and facilitates students in their rapid movement to graduation. Most students, once being identified as Exercise Science majors, complete degree requirements on average in 26.9 months.

The addition of a second full-time faculty member in the Fall, 2005, has allowed class size to decrease so that the classroom experience is optimized for students, and, has added philosophical and expertise dimensions to the program. Research training is scheduled into required courses and meaningful research opportunities are present for those who are motivated and capable. Faculty note that research has been on-going, but recommend that research productivity be emphasized. Students enjoy an open-door advisement policy that maximizes contact with faculty and provides opportunities for advisement far beyond class scheduling.

Overall Rating of Quality and Productivity: Very Strong

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Quality

1. There is a need to identify minimal entrance standards for Exercise Science that does not impact diversity negatively or artificially exclude motivated students.
2. An effort to obtain more formal feedback from graduates, graduate schools, and employers are recommended to develop quantitative support for qualitative assessment.
3. An emphasis on research and publication that maximizes resources provided through professional development funding and other resources developed by faculty.

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Productivity

There is no apparent system problem in this regard.

Conclusion about Exercise Science Viability at CSU

Exercise Science has been and continues to be an extremely viable program at Columbus State University. A consideration of need, support of CSU mission, cost, faculty resources, and productivity all speak clearly to the viability of the program. The direction that the program will take will be determined ultimately by resources and line supervision in the University.

Program Improvement Plan

In response to the findings of the Comprehensive Program Review, the faculty members and administrators of the B.S. in Exercise Science propose the strategies outlined below to improve the quality, productivity and viability of the program. These strategies will be facilitated by the Program Coordinator of the Exercise Science program.

<i>Departmental Plans and Priorities</i>	<i>CPR Indicator</i>	<i>Projected Timeline</i>
1. Develop appropriate admission criteria for candidates desiring to major in Exercise Science	Quality Productivity Viability	2006-2007
2. Develop and implement an assessment system to document student learning and employer satisfaction/need	Quality Productivity Viability	2006-Ongoing
3. Develop a plan, timeline and budget to obtain program accreditation.	Quality Productivity Viability	2006-Ongoing

The resources needed to accomplish these priorities may be substantial, especially in regard to the development of an assessment system and the development of a plan to pursue program accreditation. Departmental resources will be allocated as necessary to accomplish these plans. The Exercise Science Program Coordinator will be provided one course release time each academic year to provide leadership to these activities. The Program Coordinator will communicate additional resource requests as needed to the appropriate administrator within the College of Education at Columbus State University.

Summary Recommendation and Supporting Rationale: Maintain Program at the Current Level

It is recommended that faculty review and revise program admission criteria for candidates; develop and refine an assessment system that gauges student learning and program effectiveness; and develop an initial plan for program accreditation. Additionally, it is recommended that faculty continue to gather data regarding the efficacy of developing a Master's level program in Exercise Science.