

CPR Report Submitted!

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- 5 **Institution:** Columbus State University
- 6 **Review Status:** Non-triggered Review
- 7 **Degree level:** Education Specialist
- 8 **Degree acronym:** EDS
- 9 **Degree/Major:** EdS in Middle Grades Education
- 10 **CIP Code:** 13120301
- 11 **College,
School/Division:** College of Education
- 12 **Department:** Teacher Education
- 13 **CPR Plan
followed:** Yes
- 14 **Future institutional
plans for program:** Maintain at present level
- 15 **Supplemental file:** MG EdS Exec-Sum.doc
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Executive Summary for the Ed.S. Middle Grades Education

Major Findings of the Program's Quality and Productivity

Program Quality: Very Strong

In February 2005, a continuing approval review of the College of Education was conducted by a Board of Examiners (BOE) consisting of representatives from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC). The 2000 NCATE Standards and the Georgia 2000 Standards were used to assess the unit and its programs. The BOE judged all standards to be met for the unit and for all initial and advanced programs. Overall, the Ed.S. Middle Grades Education program is strong and prepares highly qualified middle level teachers who are able to assume leadership roles in their schools, districts, and state.

Program Productivity: Satisfactory

Enrollment in the Ed.S. Middle Grades Education program has been fairly consistent over the past four years with an average enrollment of 14 students per year. Among the six Ed.S. programs offered in the Department of Teacher Education, the middle grades education program ranks first in average student enrollment. Required courses are offered on a regular basis, and enrollment in those courses is adequate. This helps to contribute to the cost-effectiveness of the department. The majority of students in the program are female and minorities are well represented. The number of Ed.S. Middle Grades Education degrees conferred by CSU is small (an average of 6.5 per year) but has been fairly consistent over the past four years and is comparable to the number of degrees conferred by other USG state universities of similar size and mission.

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Quality

Though the program quality is very strong, we continue to look for ways to make improvements. Current initiatives include:

- aligning coursework with the new Georgia Performance Standards for middle grades content areas in an effort to help prepare teachers to teach with the new standards,
- consideration of an endorsement program in instructional supervision offered in conjunction with Educational Leadership faculty
- consideration of a reading education concentration that would lead to certification as a reading specialist

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Productivity

The Middle Grades Education Program Advisory Committee (PAC) oversees the Ed.S. Program in Middle Grades Education and works to improve the curriculum, courses, and resources offered to teachers. Recommendations to improve program productivity are as follows.

- Align coursework with the new Georgia Performance Standards in an effort to help prepare teachers to teach with the new standards. By responding to current initiatives and mandates, we hope to recruit more teachers into the Ed.S. program.
- Provide additional support for students in graduate courses through advising and/or offering prerequisite courses or professional development opportunities that better prepare students for the graduate courses and research endeavors.
- Connect the content of the graduate courses to the middle level curriculum. By making the coursework more relevant to teachers, we hope to attract more teachers into the Ed.S. program.

Conclusion about the Program’s Viability at CSU

The Ed.S. Middle Grades Education program at CSU is a viable one. As indicated by the evaluation of the NCATE/PSC Board of Examiners in February 2005, the quality of the program is very strong. All NCATE/PSC standards were judged to be met for all initial and advanced programs.

The viability of the program is also ensured by the collaborative relationship that exists between the College of Education, College of Science, College of Arts and Letters, and P-12 teachers. Representatives from each of these groups work together to make improvements to the middle grades education programs at CSU and to impact middle level education in our region. The Ed.S. program in middle grades education is a valuable resource for teachers in our region who want to grow professionally, gain additional expertise, and pursue leadership opportunities in middle level education. Students in the Ed.S. program take what they learn and apply it in their own classrooms to help their students develop as learners. They also share their expertise with other teachers in their schools, districts, and state.

Graduates of the Ed.S. Middle Grades Education program are also a valuable resource for our undergraduate program. A substantial number of program graduates teach in systems served by CSU, especially Muscogee County. Our graduate programs have helped to create a cadre of leaders within our Partner School Network. Graduates often serve CSU as pre-student teaching cooperating teachers and cooperating teachers for student teaching. They are an invaluable asset in assisting with the development of our undergraduates.

Program Improvement Plan

In response to the findings of the Comprehensive Program Review, the faculty members and administrators of the Ed.S. in Middle Grades Education propose the strategies outlined below to improve the quality, productivity and viability of the program. These strategies will be facilitated by the Middle Grades Education Program Advisory Committee (PAC).

<i>Departmental Plans and Priorities</i>	<i>CPR Indicator</i>	<i>Projected Timeline</i>
1. Refine the College of Education Recruitment Plan to focus on specific methods for recruiting graduate students from diverse backgrounds	Productivity Viability	2006-2007

2. Explore various funding sources to provide scholarships for students seeking advanced degrees in Middle Grades Education	Productivity Viability	2006-Ongoing
3. Align appropriate graduate courses with the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) to make the individual courses as well as the program highly attractive to prospective graduate students who will be implementing the GPS.	Quality Productivity Viability	2006-2007
4. Continue to connect the content of the graduate Middle Grades courses to the Middle Grades (4-8) curriculum	Quality Productivity Viability	2006-Ongoing
6. Combine the Ed.S. programs in the Department of Teacher Education under a common degree title (as appropriate) that allows students to concentrate in a specific content area	Productivity Viability	2006-2008
7. Review the feasibility of developing endorsements in instructional supervision or reading education	Quality Productivity Viability	2006-Ongoing

The resources needed to accomplish these priorities should be minimal. Departmental resources will be allocated as necessary to accomplish these plans. Priority 2 will require the assistance of individuals in the Office of University Advancement to develop endowments which provide scholarships for graduate students. The Middle Grades 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

Recommendation: *Maintain the Program at the Current Level*

The program quality is very strong, and the number of degrees conferred each year is adequate.

As previously mentioned, CSU will continue to work to improve the current Ed.S. program in middle grades education by responding to new initiatives (e.g., Georgia Performance Standards), improving the curriculum, providing better support and resources for students, and intensifying recruitment efforts. By enhancing the quality of the program, we hope to attract more potential students.