

CPR Report Submitted!

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- 5 **Institution:** Columbus State University
- 6 **Review Status:** Triggered Review
- 7 **Degree level:** Education Specialist
- 8 **Degree acronym:** EDS
- 9 **Degree/Major:** EdS in Secondary Education - Science
- 10 **CIP Code:** 13131601
- 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
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Executive Summary for the Ed.S. Secondary Science

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. Secondary Science program is strong and prepares highly qualified science teachers who are able to assume leadership roles in their schools, districts, and state.

Program Productivity: Satisfactory

Enrollment in the Ed.S. Secondary Science program has remained fairly stable over the past four years. Average enrollment over the four-year period from 2001-2005 was two students per year. Among the six Ed.S. programs housed in the Department of Teacher Education, the program ranks fifth in average student enrollment.. Because the program is small, courses are usually offered on a one- or two-year cycle, which helps with enrollment numbers. This contributes to the cost-effectiveness of the department. The program has a diverse group of majors (on average 88% female and 37% non-white) from a wide range of age groups. Graduates of the program are in high demand.

The number of Ed.S. Secondary Science degrees conferred by CSU is small (on average one per year) but has been fairly consistent over the past four years. As the only USG institution within a 90-mile radius of Columbus that offers a specialist degree in secondary science, CSU provides science teachers in its service region an opportunity that they might not have otherwise, to gain further expertise in science education and to develop their leadership skills.

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 Science in an effort to help prepare teachers to teach the new standards,
- connecting content in graduate science courses to the secondary curriculum so that teachers see the relevance of the science they are learning.

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Productivity

The Science Program Advisory Committee (PAC) will oversee the following efforts to improve the curriculum, courses, and resources offered to teachers.

- Align coursework with the new Georgia Performance Standards for Science (2005-2006) in an effort to help prepare teachers to teach the new standards. By

responding to current initiatives and mandates, we hope to recruit more teachers into the Ed.S. program.

- Consider ways to connect the content of the graduate science courses to the secondary curriculum. By making the coursework more relevant to teachers, we hope to attract more teachers into the Ed.S. program.
- Recruit more students into the undergraduate science or science education programs.

Conclusion about the Program's Viability at CSU

The Ed.S. Secondary Science 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. In addition, program quality is enhanced by special opportunities available at CSU. Science education majors have access to resources and professional development opportunities offered through the Centers of Excellence such as Oxbow Meadows (for life science) and the Coca Cola Space Science Center (for the physical sciences.)

The viability of the program is also ensured by the collaborative relationship that exists and is ongoing between the College of Education and the Science Department. Representatives from these groups are working together to make improvements to the science education programs at CSU and to impact science education in our region. The Ed.S. program in secondary science is a valuable resource for teachers in our region who want to grow professionally, gain additional expertise, and pursue leadership opportunities in the field of science education. Students in the Ed.S. program take what they learn and apply it in their own classrooms to help their students learn science. They also share their expertise with other teachers in their schools, districts, and state.

Graduates of the Ed.S. Secondary Science program are also a valuable resource for our undergraduate program in secondary science. A substantial number of program graduates teach in systems served by CSU, especially Muscogee County. Our graduate programs in secondary science 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.

Though small, the number of Ed.S. Secondary Science degrees conferred by CSU has been fairly consistent over the past four years. As the only USG institution within a 90 mile radius of Columbus that offers a specialist's degree in secondary science, CSU provides science teachers in its service region an opportunity to gain expertise and pursue leadership opportunities in science education. These are opportunities that they might not have if CSU did not offer this degree program. With the critical shortage of highly-qualified science teachers, we need to provide every possible opportunity for teachers to grow professionally and enhance their knowledge and skills in teaching science.

Program Improvement Plan

In response to the findings of the Comprehensive Program Review, the faculty members and administrators of the Ed.S. in Secondary Science Education propose the strategies outlined below to improve the quality, productivity and viability of the program. These strategies will be facilitated by the Secondary Science 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 Secondary Science	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-Ongoing
4. Consider ways to connect the content of the graduate science courses to the secondary science curriculum (Grades 6-12)	Quality Productivity Viability	2006-Ongoing
5. Combine the Ed.S. programs in secondary education under a common degree title that allows students to concentrate in a specific content area	Productivity Viability	2006-2008

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 Secondary 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

Recommendation: *Maintain the Program at the Current Level*

The program quality is very strong, but the number of degrees conferred each year is small. Until we are able to recruit more students into undergraduate programs in science or science education, opportunities for expansion of the Ed.S. program in secondary science will be limited. There are also factors beyond our control that have an impact on the Ed.S. program. Since teachers can get a specialist degree in any field and receive an increase in pay, some of the science teachers in our service region have chosen to pursue a specialist degree in an area other than secondary science.

As previously mentioned, CSU will continue to work to improve the current Ed.S. program in secondary science 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.