

CPR Report Submitted!

Thank you for submitting a Comprehensive Program Review Report. Below is the information you sent on July 10, 2006. *Please note* this is a *temporary* web page and *cannot* be bookmarked. You may wish to print this page for your records. You will also receive confirmation via email.

- 1 **Name:** Carl Wallman
- 2 **Title:** Associate VP for Academic Affairs
- 3 **Daytime phone:** 706-569-3121
- 4 **Email:** wallman_carl@colstate.edu
- 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 - Social Science
- 10 **CIP Code:** 13131701
- 11 **College,**
11 **School/Division:** College of Education
- 12 **Department:** Teacher Education
- 13 **CPR Plan**
13 **followed:** Yes
- 14 **Future institutional**
14 **plans for program:** Maintain at present level
- 15 **Supplemental file:** EdS Sec Ed Soc Sci Exec-Sum.doc
- 16 **File Type:** MS Word
- 17 **CPR Web site:** aa.colstate.edu/assess/cprtbl.htm

Executive Summary for the Ed.S. Secondary Social 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 Social Science program is strong and prepares highly qualified social science teachers who are able to assume leadership roles in their schools, districts, and state.

Program Productivity: Satisfactory

Enrollment in the Ed.S. Secondary Social Science program has been fairly consistent over the past four years (an average enrollment of 1.75 students per year). Among the six Ed.S. programs offered in the Department of Teacher Education, the secondary Social Science program ranks fifth in average student enrollment. Required courses are offered on an as needed basis due to the enrollment numbers. This helps to contribute to the cost-effectiveness of the department. The majority of students in the program are female though minorities are under represented (100% white).

The number of Ed.S. Secondary Social Science degrees conferred by CSU is small (an average of 0.5 per year) but is comparable to the number of degrees conferred by other USG state universities. As the only USG institution within a 90 mile radius of Columbus that offers a specialist degree in secondary social science, CSU provides social studies teachers in its service region an opportunity that they might not have otherwise, to gain further expertise in social 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 Social Science in an effort to help prepare teachers to teach with the new standards,
- connecting content in graduate social science courses to the secondary curriculum so that teachers see the relevance of the social science content they are learning.
- increasing the collaboration between the social science education faculty and the faculty in the College of Arts and Letters who teach content courses required in the Ed.S. program.

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Productivity

The Social Science Program Advisory Committee (PAC) oversees the Ed.S. program in Secondary Social Science 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 for social science 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 Social Science courses through advising and/or offering prerequisite courses or professional development opportunities that better prepare students for the graduate Social Science courses.
- Connect the content of the graduate Social 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 Social Science or Social Science education programs.

Conclusion about the Program's Viability at CSU

The Ed.S. secondary social 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 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, Social Science Department, the College of Arts and Letters, and P-12 teachers. Representatives from each of these groups work together to make improvements to the social science education programs at CSU and to impact social science education in our region. The Ed.S. program in secondary social 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 social science education. Students in the Ed.S. program take what they learn and apply it in their own classrooms to help their students learn social studies. They also share their expertise with other teachers in their schools, districts, and state.

Graduates of the Ed.S. Secondary Social Science program are also a valuable resource for our undergraduate program in secondary History Education. A substantial number of program graduates teach in systems served by CSU, especially Muscogee County. Our graduate programs in secondary social 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 Social Science degrees conferred by CSU has been fairly consistent over the past four years and exceeds the number of degrees conferred by other USG state universities. As the only USG institution within a 90 mile

radius of Columbus that offers a specialist degree in secondary Social Science, CSU provides social studies teachers in its service region an opportunity to gain expertise and pursue leadership opportunities in social 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 social science teachers, we need to provide every possible opportunity for teachers to grow professionally and enhance their knowledge and skills in teaching social studies.

Program Improvement Plan

In response to the findings of the Comprehensive Program Review, the faculty members and administrators of the Ed.S. in Secondary Social 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 Social 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 Social 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. Continue to collaborate closely with College of Arts and Letters faculty to increase and develop new courses in the social sciences.	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 Social 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 strong, but the number of degrees conferred each year is small. Until we are able to recruit more students into undergraduate programs in history or history education, opportunities for expansion of the Ed.S. program in secondary social 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 social studies teachers in our service region have chosen to pursue a specialist degree in an area other than secondary social science.

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