

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR THE MASTER OF EDUCATION IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION IN ACCOMPLISHED TEACHING PROGRAM

Major Findings of the Program's Quality and Productivity

The MEd in Curriculum and Instruction in Accomplished Teaching program supports Columbus State University's mission to achieve academic excellence through teaching, research, creative inquiry and student engagement. Candidates engage in inquiry-based learning, research, and authentic field-based experiences as they refine and enhance their knowledge and skills for effective teaching in their grade levels and content areas. Guiding candidates to become better teachers is the primary focus of the program.

The program also meets the needs of teachers who live and work in areas that are not near institutions of higher learning. This program offers teachers the opportunity to improve their knowledge and skills in the broad area of curriculum and instruction and to apply that knowledge and skill to their specific content area and level of teaching. Teaching and advising are delivered by excellent instructors who have strong records of scholarship and teaching. While the program is fully online, communication with students is maintained in a timely and helpful manner. Faculty make every effort to establish personal professional relationships with the students in their courses. Collaboration with Georgia Southern University and Valdosta State University strengthens the program's course offerings and adds quality faculty to the program.

Among the strengths of the MEd in Curriculum and Instruction in Accomplished Teaching program are the emphasis on students' understand and use of research and the quality, breadth, and depth of faculty research. Students will continue to be required to produce and use research in their courses, and faculty members will also be encouraged to continue to pursue research interests and to publish their findings.

The 88.2% graduate rate in 2012 indicates highly successful retention, progression, and graduation in the first 3 full years of the program. This success is expected to continue.

The cost-effectiveness of the MEd in Curriculum and Instruction in Accomplished Teaching program is evidenced by the high revenue from tuition (\$751,504.00 in FY 2012) and relatively low instructional costs (e.g. \$108,200 for adjunct faculty for FY 2013).

In summary, the MEd in Curriculum and Instruction in Accomplished Teaching program is judged to be Very Strong in quality and productivity.

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Quality

1. A systematic method of collecting data regarding students' satisfaction with individual courses, faculty, and advisement, as well as their satisfaction with program as a whole is needed. A new Program Coordinator with expertise in research, curriculum and instruction, and online programs will begin working in May 2013. Her research expertise will be applied to the exploration of systematic means of collecting data regarding students' satisfaction with program advisement and students' evaluations of their courses and instructors.
2. Additional elective courses should be developed to meet the needs of the variety of candidates enrolled in the program. The three collaborating institutions are in the beginning stages of making plans to create new courses that will be appropriate electives for students in

the MEd in Curriculum and Instruction in Accomplished Teaching program. It is expected that the addition of these elective courses will make the program more attractive to potential students.

3. Faculty should continue to emphasize students' understanding and use of research in all of the courses in the program. Faculty members will include research assignments in their course syllabi.

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Productivity

1. A marketing plan which will target potential students in Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina is needed. The number of candidates enrolled in the program through Columbus State University is low when compared to the numbers enrolled through Valdosta State University or Georgia Southern University. While the courses in the MEd in Curriculum and Instruction in Accomplished Teaching program offered by Columbus State University enroll approximately 165 students each semester, Columbus State University is not the home institutions of most of those students. Work has begun on a plan, and the plan will be implemented during the Spring 2013 semester.

2. As new students are added to the MEd in Curriculum and Instruction in Accomplished Teaching program, additional full-time or part-time faculty may be needed to meet the demand for courses.

3. Communication between the Program Coordinator/Advisor and the candidates and the program faculty and their students should be maintained in order to boost candidate engagement. Faculty are encouraged to respond to messages within 48 hours and to participate in online discussion boards and other interactive assignments.

Conclusion about the Program's Viability at CSU

While the MEd in Curriculum and Instruction in Accomplished Teaching program is relatively new, it continues to be very successful in meeting the needs of candidates and in enhancing the knowledge and skills of p – 12 teachers. The cost-effectiveness of the MEd in Curriculum and Instruction in Accomplished Teaching program is evidenced by the high revenue from tuition (\$751,504.00 in FY 2012) and relatively low instructional costs (e.g. \$108,200 for adjunct faculty for FY 2013). The program is judged to be capable of continuing to grow, develop and function with a high degree of quality and productivity.

Program Improvement Plan

As the program grows, additional faculty will likely be needed to meet the demand for courses. A meeting is planned of the three institutions involved for October in order to discuss matters of common interest such as:

- Advisory Committee for Collaborative Programs
- Service Level Agreements with USG
- Collaborative Partner MOUs
- Common Calendar
- INGRESS Update
- Use of the collaborative GOVIEW Server
- Coordination of Graduate Education Collaboratives (Breakout Session)

The enrollment of students is relatively low from CSU, hence a graduate recruiter for COEHP has been hired to visit schools and recruit for this program.

Faculty will examine and develop new elective courses for this program.

Summary Recommendation and Supporting Rationale

Recommendation: *Continue to Maintain and Enhance the Program*

It is recommended that the MEd in Curriculum and Instruction in Accomplished Teaching program continue to be expanded and enhanced through improving the curriculum, providing better support and resources for students, preparing P-12 teachers to teach online, developing a retention and graduation plan to improve program viability, adding faculty as the program's growth dictates, developing additional elective courses, and intensifying recruitment efforts.