

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR THE M.A.T./M.ED. SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA

Major Findings of the Program's Quality and Productivity

Program Quality: *Very Strong*

In February 2013, a continuing approval review of the Educator Preparation Unit at CSU 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 2008 NCATE Standards and the Georgia 2008 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. There were no areas for improvement cited, and the team noted multiple areas of strength.

Overall, the M.A.T. and M.Ed. School Library Media programs are very strong and prepare highly qualified media specialist who have the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to help all students learn.

This is demonstrated by GACE pass rates of 100%, consistent ratings of meets or exceeds expectations on performance evaluations, overall GPAs of 3.66 or better, and satisfactory completion of a culminating capstone research project.

Program Productivity: *Satisfactory*

Enrollment in the M.A.T. and M.Ed. School Library Media remained stable from 2007 till 2011, but in 2011-2012, there was a decline from 20 to 15, a decrease of 25%. Courses are offered on a one year cycle, and enrollment in required courses is good. This helps to contribute to the cost-effectiveness of the department. The program has a diverse group of majors and a wide range of age groups. Graduates of the program are in high demand.

According to Integrated Postsecondary Education Database System (IPEDS), Columbus State is the sole institution reporting master's degree conferrals in school library media to CIP Code 13.1334 in the state of Georgia as of 2011. Thus, conferral and provider trends using IPEDS data are not available for the state of Georgia and the lower Chattahoochee region. The number of M.A.T. / M.Ed. School Library Media degrees conferred by CSU is small (an average of 4 per year) but has been fairly consistent over the past four years and is comparable to the number of degrees conferred by other universities across the nation. The national trend shows that CSU rank fifth among top 10 providers in 2011. As the only USG institution within a 90 mile radius of Columbus that offers a master's degree in School Library Media, CSU provides an opportunity for candidates to serve as school librarians in its service region.

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Quality

The School Library Media Program Advisory Council (PAC) oversees the M.A.T. and M.Ed. programs in School Library Media and works to improve the curriculum, courses, and resources

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

- The programs are currently designed around the 2005 core standards created by the American Library Association (ALA) / American Association of School Librarians (AASL). Align the programs with the 2010 ALA/AASL Standards for Initial Preparation of School Librarians,
- Align the AASL Standards for the 21st-Century Learner and with the new Common Core Georgia Performance Standards in an effort to help prepare school librarians to teach with the new standards,

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Productivity

Recommendations to improve program productivity are as follows.

- Aligning the AASL Standards for the 21st-Century Learner and with the new Common Core Georgia Performance Standards in an effort to help prepare school librarians to teach with the new standards. By responding to current initiatives and mandates to make our programs more relevant for school librarian, we hope to recruit more teachers into the M.A.T. and M.Ed. programs.
- Seek grant funding to support graduate students in School Library Media program.
- Explore possibility of admitting students from outside of Georgia by changing the current program delivery format from hybrid to fully online.

Conclusion about the Program's Viability at CSU

The M.A.T./M.Ed. School Library Media programs at CSU are viable, but weak. As indicated by the evaluation of the NCATE/PSC Board of Examiners in February 2013, the quality of the programs is very strong. All NCATE/PSC standards were judged to be met for all initial and advanced programs with no areas for improvement and multiple areas of strength cited. In addition, program quality is enhanced by special opportunities available at CSU.

Overall, the M.A.T. and M.Ed. School Library Media programs are strong and prepare highly qualified media specialist who have the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to help all students learn.

This is demonstrated by GACE pass rates of 100%, consistent ratings of meets or exceeds expectations on performance evaluations, overall GPAs of 3.66 or better, and satisfactory completion of a culminating capstone research project.

Candidates and graduates of our M.A.T. and M.Ed. programs have also impacted professional communities outside their individual schools. In 2012, one of our graduate students was awarded the Teacher of the Year at her school.

The viability of the program has been ensured by the sharing of resources among all graduate level programs at CSU. The M.A.T/ M.Ed. programs in School Library Media have helped CSU to accomplish its mission of serving the educational needs of a diverse region. By preparing highly qualified school librarians, the program helps to improve the quality of education and the quality of life in the institution's service area. Because the enrollment and degrees conferred by CSU is small, the decision has been made to discontinue the program. It is believed that the area will be better served by exploring other opportunities for endorsements or certificates to help teachers by focusing on supporting technology implementation and online teaching.

Program Improvement Plan

In response to the findings of the Comprehensive Program Review, the faculty members and administrators of the M.A.T./M.Ed. in School Library Media propose that the program be phased out and discontinued. Though the program is strong, the demand for the program has been extremely low, and through a regional survey there does not appear to be interest from area teachers. It is believed that efforts would be better spent moving toward a focus in supporting technology implementation and online teaching. The strategies outlined below will be followed to phase out the program.

Goals	Projected Timeline
Work with the Vice President to follow requirements for phasing out & discontinuing the program.	2013-2014
Work with all current students to advise and support them with a timely completion of their programs of study.	2013-2014
Develop a projected course offering schedule to ensure timely program completion for all current students.	2013-2014
Investigate other opportunities for possible endorsements or certificates.	2013-2014

Summary Recommendation and Supporting Rationale

Recommendation: *Discontinue the Program*

Though the program quality is strong, the number of degrees conferred each year is extremely small and appears to have little opportunity for future growth. Therefore, the recommendation is to discontinue the program and explore other opportunities for possible endorsements or certificates.