

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR THE ED.S. SECONDARY EDUCATION

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 Ed.S. Secondary Education program is very strong and prepares highly qualified secondary teachers (i.e., grades 6-12) who demonstrate expertise in their content knowledge and teaching skills, and share their knowledge and skills with other professionals. This is demonstrated by consistent ratings of meets or exceeds expectations on performance evaluations, overall GPAs of 3.0 or better, and satisfactory completion of a culminating research project.

Program Productivity: Satisfactory

The total number of students enrolled in the specialist degree program in secondary education increased from 16 in 2007-2008 to 28 in 2009-2010 (a 75% increase) and then decreased to more typical numbers in the following two years. With the exception of that one year, enrollment in the Ed.S. Secondary Education program has remained relatively stable with an average enrollment of 20 per year over the last five years.

The number of Ed.S. degrees conferred each year in Secondary Education is small but has increased since 2007-2008, with a five year average of seven degrees conferred per year. This average is comparable to other USG institutions offering Ed.S. degrees in secondary education.

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Quality

Program Advisory Councils (PAC) oversee the Ed.S. program in Secondary Education and work 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:

- aligning the curriculum with the new Common Core Georgia Performance Standards for mathematics and English and the Next Generation Science Standards, in an effort to help prepare teachers to teach with the new standards,
- implementing and refining a new portfolio option and new course-embedded key assessments,
- working with appropriate departments in the College of Letters and Sciences to explore the possibility of offering more graduate level content courses to broaden and deepen candidates' knowledge in their content area,

- hiring a new mathematics education faculty member and program coordinator to decrease the need for use of part-time faculty and provide greater consistency in program delivery.

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Productivity

Recommendations to improve program productivity are as follows.

- Align coursework with the new Common Core Georgia Performance Standards for mathematics and English and the Next Generation Science Standards. By responding to current initiatives and mandates to make our programs more relevant for classroom teachers, we hope to recruit more teachers into the Ed.S. program.
- Work with the COEHP Recruitment Committee and Director of Graduate Studies to enhance recruitment efforts.

Conclusion about the Program's Viability at CSU

The Ed.S. Secondary Education program at CSU is viable. As indicated by the evaluation of the NCATE/PSC Board of Examiners in February 2013, the quality of the program is very strong. All NCATE/PSC standards were judged to be met for all initial and advanced programs. There were no areas for improvement and multiple strengths were cited. In addition, program quality is enhanced by special opportunities available at CSU through the Columbus Regional Mathematics Collaborative (CRMC), Oxbow Meadows, Coca Cola Space Science Center, and the Cultural Approach to History Project.

The viability of the program is also ensured by the sharing of resources among all secondary education programs at CSU. Faculty from the College of Education and Health Professions and the College of Letters and Sciences work with representatives from P-12 partner schools in the design and implementation of secondary education programs at all levels (B.A., M.A.T., M.Ed., and Ed.S.). These stakeholders work together to make improvements to the secondary education programs at CSU and to impact education in our region. The Ed.S. program in secondary education is a valuable resource for teachers in our region who want to grow professionally and gain further expertise in their field while developing their leadership abilities. Candidates in the secondary education program take what they learn and apply it in their own classrooms to help their students learn, and share what they learn with other professionals.

Graduates of the Ed.S. Secondary Education program are also a valuable resource for our undergraduate programs in secondary education. A substantial number of program graduates teach in systems served by CSU, especially Muscogee County. Our graduate programs in secondary education 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 a valuable asset in assisting with the development of our undergraduates.

Though small, the number of Ed.S. Secondary Education degrees conferred by CSU has been fairly consistent over the past five years and 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 education, CSU provides secondary teachers in its service region an opportunity to develop further expertise in their content fields, improve their teaching skills, and

share their knowledge and skills with other professionals. This is an opportunity that they might not have if CSU did not offer this degree program.

Program Improvement Plan

In response to the findings of the Comprehensive Program Review, program faculty members propose the strategies outlined below to improve the quality, productivity and viability of the program. These strategies will be facilitated by Program Advisory Councils (PAC).

Goals	Projected Timeline
Align the curriculum with the new Common Core Georgia Performance Standards and Next Generation Science Standards.	2013-2014
Implement and refine new portfolio option and new course-embedded key assessments.	2013-2014
Work with appropriate departments in the College of Letters and Sciences to explore possibility of offering more graduate level content courses to broaden and deepen candidates' knowledge in their content area.	2013-2014
Work with COEHP Recruitment Committee and Director of Graduate Studies to enhance recruitment efforts.	Ongoing
Hire a new mathematics education faculty member and program coordinator.	Fall 2013

Summary Recommendation and Supporting Rationale

Recommendation: *Continue to Maintain and Enhance the Program*

The program quality is very strong, and the number of degrees conferred each year is small but relatively stable. As the only USG institution within a 90 mile radius of Columbus that offers a specialist degree in secondary education, CSU provides secondary teachers in its service region an opportunity for professional development that they might not otherwise have if CSU did not offer this degree program. The Ed.S. program may also provide a pool of candidates for the Curriculum and Instruction track of the Ed.D. program in Curriculum and Leadership.

CSU will continue to work to improve the program by responding to new initiatives such as improving the curriculum, aligning the curriculum with the new Common Core Standards, providing better support and resources for students, preparing P-12 teachers to teach online, developing a retention and graduation plan to improve program viability, securing new faculty as needed, and intensifying recruitment efforts.

By enhancing the quality of the program, we hope to attract more potential students.