

2005-2006 Annual Program Assessment Report

M. A. in Family and Consumer Sciences

Division of the Human Development and Allied Technologies

College of Education and Human Services

October 2006



MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

I. Assessment Activities

A. Program Goals

The M.A. Degree in Family and Consumer Sciences program is committed to empowering students through research and in-depth professional expertise to serve in managerial positions in education, business, and human services. Tailored to individual career needs and interests, the Master's degree program builds upon department offerings and on support courses to educate students about research, theory, and professional skills related to the study of consumers and families across diverse populations and settings.

Specific goals of the M.A. Degree in Family and Consumer Sciences program are to:

- Enhance FCS students' competence to assume professional leadership roles in secondary, postsecondary and extension education, human service programs, and in business.
- Optimize research opportunities for graduate students and faculty to keep up with FCS trends/issues, current content, and maintain professional leadership in promoting quality of life of individuals and families.
- Improve recruitment and retention of qualified students through proper guidance and scheduling graduate courses at convenient times (e.g. summer courses to attract FCS teachers, or evening classes).

B. Learning outcomes and data collection.

The M.A. Degree in FCS program plays a major role in offering courses to:

- Promote students' growth and opportunities for advancement. A number of jobs are available that require masters or advanced degree as minimum qualifications. Promotion and acquisition of higher positions in employment often require postgraduate qualifications.
- Use philosophy, research, theories, and professional practice experience to address challenges affecting life quality and possible future direction. Course assignments include research paper, service projects and rethinking or the future of FCS. Students choose and present work focusing in the professional area of interest. Through research papers, for example, students investigated, discussed, and proposed action on identified problems.

- Increase enrollment and retention of graduate students. The program attracts students from secondary school teaching and supervision, extension, and business. The enrollment is most likely to increase when courses are organized and delivered to fit with potential students' work schedules. Alternatively, the department may explore the possibilities of hybrid courses (online and occasional classroom/laboratory work).

C. Results

Effective performance was demonstrated through research projects, service projects and seminar presentations. The individualized nature of the Family and Consumer Sciences Master's degree is a major strength because the program can meet individual students' interests and needs. For further details refer to the Assessment Summary Chart attached.

II. Plans

Initiative is taken to further develop the M.A. Degree in FCS program and expand areas of study to perform effectively in the job market. Courses will expand to include statistics, research methods in FCS, and more courses to enable students have specialization in identified FCS area.

III. Assistance Needed

The department has a need for computer lab to allow graduate students and faculty for laboratory work and research activities. Further, there is need to hire more faculty to advise graduate students' research in various areas of interest within the field of Family and Consumer Sciences. Currently the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences comprises three tenure-track faculty, with considerable teaching experience. They participated in national and state professional FCS activities in the 2005-2006 academic year.

IV. What was learned through this process

The assessment process reaffirmed the need for the M.A. Degree in Family and Consumer Sciences program in advancing competencies required in supervisory roles in the job market. The process also helped identify the need for flexibility in the scheduling of courses to attract potential students in the world of work.

ASSESSMENT REPORT
M.A. in Family and Consumer Sciences
2005-2006

| Student Outcomes | Persons Responsible | Assessment Tool or Approach | Standards/Benchmarks | Results/Analysis | Action |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Growth and advancement | Faculty | Course Assignments Thesis or creative endeavor/ component Instructor evaluation | Qualify for research or teaching assistantship. Informal discussion through thesis or creative endeavor preparation. Graduate committee approval | Satisfactory completion of thesis or creative endeavor. Graduates employed in relevant fields. | Enhance overall students' academic & experience through expansion of courses in keeping with career opportunities. Improve physical & technological learning environment for teaching, research & public service experience. |
| Optimize research opportunities | Faculty Student | Research funding proposals Research papers Seminar presentation Abstracts/articles submitted for conference/publication | Research grant proposal and awards Publications in peer-reviewed journals | Faculty attended & presented at professional conferences | Facilitate students to seek funding for thesis research. |
| Increase enrollment and retention of students | Program Coordinator Faculty | GRE Exam Undergraduate GPA of 2.5 or better B or better grade in FCS courses | GRE Scores Graduate students' enrollment target number | Students graduation rate | Promote the program through brochures and online (FCS website) |