

MEMO

TO: LCBAS Curriculum Committee

FROM: Lisa Moyer, Graduate Coordinator for the MS in FCS graduate program

RE: Proposed Master's in Family and Consumer Sciences online cohort program

DATE: January 13, 2014

During the 2012-2013 AY, the MS in FCS graduate faculty discussed the development of a hybrid program offered specifically to FCS high school teachers. For the past five years, many potential MS in FCS students have expressed interest in an online program. In addition, when at professional conferences within our discipline, many FCS high school teachers have talked to FCS faculty at EIU about the need for an online program so that they could remain employed full time while attending college to obtain their MS in FCS. After the success of the Chicago FCS high school teacher cohort (2008-2010), which was taught to the students at a Chicago location on weekends, the faculty members of the MS in FCS graduate program felt that another hybrid cohort would also be successful and meet the specified needs of current FCS high school teachers.

The proposed program will operate as a cohort, so students that are admitted would progress together through the coursework and comprehensive exams. The program will take seven semesters to complete and the projected start date is July, 2014. Before developing the curriculum for the program, the Graduate Coordinator conducted a needs assessment survey to determine the target audience's (i.e., FCS high school teachers) specific needs. A convenience sample of 15 FCS high school teachers from Illinois, Missouri, and Indiana completed the online survey in the summer, 2013 and the results were used to create a program that would meet the coursework needs expressed by the sample.

The proposed hybrid MS in FCS program will require 36 hours of coursework, including a capstone independent study course and four credits that have to be taken at Eastern Illinois University's campus the first semester. The core program coursework mirrors the MS in FCS program that is currently offered on campus. Currently, the four core courses for the on campus program include FCS 5450 (Supervision and Administration in FCS), FCS 5460 (Issues and Trends in FCS), FCS 5900 (Research Methods in FCS), and FCS 5901 (Statistics in FCS). The proposed hybrid program curriculum excludes the FCS 5450 course so that other critical course content can be included, but includes the other three core courses. The remaining coursework that will be required of the hybrid cohort was developed with the target audience's needs in mind and includes content in five of the FCS disciplines: merchandising, textile design, dietetics, consumer studies, and family services (see Appendix A).

The first six hours of the program (which will launch in the summer, 2014 semester) will include FCS 4838 (Pattern Development and Design), FCS 4753 (Nutrition and the Addicted Person), FCS 5157 (Disordered Eating Behaviors), and FCS 5158 (Childhood Obesity). FCS 4838 and FCS 4753 will be taken on campus. FCS 5157 and FCS 5158 will be administered online. The rest of the coursework will be administered as hybrid (see Appendix B for schedule).

The Graduate Coordinator currently has a waiting list of 25 potential candidates for the first cohort (only 15 students will be admitted at a time) and is working with the School of Continuing Education on the development of a budget and marketing. At this time, we are seeking permission from the LCBAS Curriculum Committee to offer the hybrid MS in FCS cohort program.

Date approved by FCS Curriculum Committee: November 17, 2013

Date approved by LCBAS Curriculum Committee: February 17, 2014

Date approved by CGS:

APPENDIX A: Proposed course curriculum for hybrid MS in FCS cohort program

FCS 4753	Nutrition and the addicted person*
FCS 4770	Family budgeting and debt management
FCS 4838	Pattern development and design*
FCS 4854	Parent-child study and community involvement
FCS 4926	Public presentation techniques
FCS 5157	Disordered eating behaviors
FCS 5158	Childhood obesity
FCS 5301	Consumer and management problems of older people
FCS 5460	Current issues and trends
FCS 5852	Adolescence and the family
FCS 5850	Readings in human development and family studies
FCS 5900	Research methods in FCS
FCS 5901	Statistics in FCS
FCS 5990	Independent study/thesis/internship

**Courses are only offered on campus*

APPENDIX B: Proposed schedule for the 2014 hybrid MS in FCS cohort program

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Semester</u>
FCS 4838	3	Su/14
FCS 4753, FCS 5157, & FCS 5158	1	Su/14
FCS 5460	3	Fa/14
FCS 5901	3	Fa/14
FCS 5850	3	Sp/15
FCS 4926	3	Sp/15
FCS 5301	3	Su/15
FCS 5852	3	Su/15
FCS 5900	3	Fa/15
FCS 4854	3	Fa/15
FCS 4770	3	Sp/16
FCS 5990	3	Sp/16
COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS		Su/16

During the first semester of the program, students will be required to attend a new student orientation and welcome reception, as well as take two courses on Eastern Illinois University's campus: FCS 4838 and FCS 4753.