



SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS  
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

October 22, 2018

Ms. Christine L. Mee  
Executive Director, Institutional Research,  
Assessment and Analysis  
Coastal Carolina University  
P. O. Box 261954  
Conway, SC 29528

Dear Ms. Mee:

Thank you for your cover sheet for submission dated September 26, 2018, conveying the prospectus for the Interdisciplinary Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Education, effective spring 2019. Your submission was in response to a Commission letter dated August 28, 2018, requesting a prospectus for the program. Appropriate approvals by internal entities and by the University Board of Trustees and the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education were noted. The program is consistent with the University's mission, and program need was supported by a doctoral studies interest survey and occupational data projections.

The Ph.D. in Education will be delivered through traditional and distance learning modalities and is designed to develop interrelated disciplinary understandings and enable students to conduct valid and reliable contextual research. The 63-credit hour program includes three 21-credit hour specializations: Education Leadership; Higher Education Administration; and Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. Cognate and elective areas include literacy, special education, online teaching/training, and others. Curriculum plans for each specialization and a proposed schedule of course offerings were provided, as were course descriptions. Program objectives and five student learning outcomes were delineated; assessment methods include comprehensive examination, dissertation/oral defense, interdisciplinary portfolio, and collaborative research papers. Admission and graduation requirements were outlined, and the program will limit annual enrollment with no more than five to eight candidates per specialization.

The Dean of the Spadoni College of Education (SCOE) has administrative oversight of the program assisted by a faculty member with oversight of specializations, and each specialization will be directed by a designated program coordinator. Identified courses will be taught using a co-teaching model with various forms of collaboration. Two new faculty members will be hired fall 2019—one with expertise in quantitative and qualitative research design and one with expertise in higher education administration. Faculty qualifications appear appropriate based on the Faculty Roster Form for existing faculty. Advising and dissertation committee work will be determined within each specialization area, and discussion of faculty experience in directing student research was noted.

Information on library holdings relative to quantitative comparison to peer institutions and on discipline-specific refereed journals was provided. Additional digital journal subscriptions will focus on data-driven analysis, diversity, and regional perspectives with an estimated \$25,000 (noted in program budget) needed over the next five years to update and sustain program resources. Library instruction sessions are available and cover general library usage as well as project or course-specific sessions for research-oriented courses. One-on-one consultative services for students are provided in person or online. Off-campus students have the same access to electronic resources, and the librarian with expertise in education is available to provide direct, online asynchronous or synchronous support. Research guides are also available from the library's website. The Center of Teaching Excellence to Advance Learning is the Faculty Development Center providing workshops and faculty support for instruction, including online instruction using Moodle, the Course Management System.



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Other support services will be delivered through the Office of Graduate Studies. Each graduate major has a Graduate Program Coordinator who may act as the student's adviser for academic advising. Other resources include counseling and career services, among others.

All classrooms are connected to the internet and have appropriate instructional technology. Two computer labs are housed within the SCOE. No additional facilities or equipment will be needed for program implementation. Financial support appears adequate based on a five-year program budget, and contingency planning was noted.


The institutional effectiveness process uses Campus Labs' Compliance Assist for data collection, assessment, and assessment reporting. The process ensures: alignment with the institution's mission and strategic plan; assessment of all operational units; analysis and reporting of assessment results; use of results for planning and budgeting. Each responsible unit/department engages in the annual planning process.

**The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Ph.D. in Education program. It was the decision of the Board to approve the program and include it in the scope of accreditation.**

Enclosed is an invoice for \$500 to help defray the cost of review of the prospectus.

At its meeting in June 2018, the Board of Trustees approved modification of the "*Substantive Change Policy for SACSCOC Accredited Institutions Policy Statement*," for any type of substantive change requiring approval. If an approved substantive change has not been implemented within two years of action by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, the institution will need to submit a new prospectus for the change or application for a level change.

Sincerely,

  
Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.  
President

BSW/MAC:iy

Enclosure

cc: Dr. David A. DeCenzo, President  
Dr. John S. Hardt



# South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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 Interim President and Executive Director

June 12, 2018

President David A. DeCenzo, Ph.D.  
 Coastal Carolina University  
 P.O. Box 261954  
 Conway, South Carolina 29528-6054

Dear President DeCenzo:

This letter is to confirm that at its meeting on June 7, 2018, the Commission approved the Interdisciplinary **Doctor of Philosophy degree in Education with specializations in Educational Leadership, Higher Education Administration, and Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment** at Coastal Carolina University to be implemented in Spring 2019.

The following table lists the chronology of the program approval process:

Program Proposal Received	2/1/18
ACAP Consideration	3/29/18
CAAL Consideration	5/24/18
CHE Consideration	6/7/18

The program will be noted in the Commission's *Inventory of Approved Programs* with the following information:

Degree Designation	Title of Program	CIP Code	Site Identifier
Ph.D.	Education with specializations in Educational Leadership, Higher Education Administration, and Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	139999	51001 (Coastal Carolina University-Main Campus); 85500 (Blended Distance Education)

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. John Lane, Director of Academic Affairs, should you have any questions about the Commission's action.

Sincerely,

  
 Jeffrey M. Schilz  
 Interim President and Executive Director

cc: Dr. Ralph Byington  
 Dr. James Solazzo  
 Inventory file  
 Program file