

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences
2009-2014 Academic Plan

Mission and Aspirations: *Our mission is to strengthen families and communities with an emphasis on rural environments. We recognize that societies are increasingly dynamic and interdependent. Therefore, we aspire to fulfill our mission through instructional, research, and outreach/extension efforts that challenge, motivate, and inspire learners and educators to be effective personal and professional contributors within this global arena.*

Previous Planning and Accomplishments:

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences has been very productive. We were first in the College of Agriculture in undergraduate student majors and in extramural contracts and grants in 2007. We continue to be a campus leader in ePortfolio student assessment, and are proud of our Outreach and Extension efforts and impacts.

Cooperative Extension programming has been nationally recognized for its outcomes and publications in Cent\$ible Nutrition, Dining with Diabetes, WIN the Rockies, and AgrAbility. The USDA/CSREES Food Safety project has developed and distributed a survey to determine educational needs of small rural food processors. Undergraduate classroom activities were carried out which will lead to food safety training videos. We have continued to increase refereed journal publications, juried design submissions, invited presentations, and refereed poster and paper presentations with all faculty contributing in this area. Many faculty won teaching and advising awards. Thanks to our generous donors and the support of the Office of Academic and Student Programs, we were able to begin upgrading our outdated research and teaching equipment and environments. The Early Care and Education Center successfully operated in the black since its opening in 2005, allowing us to begin to address salary inequities for our lead teachers. We successfully addressed the items in our 2004-2009 Strategic Plan and conducted meetings in spring 2008 with all faculty, academic professionals and staff in the department to work on the creation of this new Strategic Plan, finalizing it at our August retreat.

Overview:

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences consists of twelve tenure-track faculty members, three extended term academic professionals including one extension specialist, three administrative staff persons, all employees of the Early Care and Education Center (the director, seven lead teachers, thirteen assistant teachers, eleven teacher aides, two dietary aides, and one administrative staff person), and all of the staff for the Cent\$ible Nutrition program (director, manager, two administrative staff persons and 31 nutrition educators). Faculty and extended term academic professional FTE's are below.

Family & Consumer Sciences Faculty/Academic Professional FTE

	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	Total	5 Year Avg
Research FTE	3.95	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.65	18.1	3.62
Instruction/Teaching FTE	6.1	5.65	5.65	5.65	6.65	29.7	5.94
Service FTE	0.88	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.75	4.12	0.824
Advising FTE	0.65	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.65	3.1	0.62
Professional Service FTE	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.3	0.58	0.116
Professional Devel. FTE					0.15	0.15	0.15
Extension FTE	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	12.5	2.5
Administration FTE	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	5.5	1.1
Other	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1.25	0.25
TOTAL	15.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	16	75	15

The department offers one undergraduate degree in Family and Consumer Sciences with five options: Dietetics, Human Nutrition and Food, Textiles and Merchandising, Professional Child Development, and Family and Community Services. Nutrition students can follow a career track in Pre-medicine, and others work with their advisers to satisfy requirements for Physician's Assistant or Physical Therapy post-graduate degree programs. There are four minors: Food and Nutrition, Interior Design, Apparel Design, and Child and Family Studies. The Professional Child Development option is available through distance delivery, as is the Early Childhood Program Director's Certificate. At the graduate level, we offer a Master of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences, and two interdisciplinary degrees: Master of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences/Early Childhood Development and Master of Science in Food Science and Human Nutrition.

Relevant Institutional Issues:

College of Agriculture: Our mission and action items tie directly to the college's areas of distinction in applied life sciences and professions critical to the region. Our efforts will support the College of Agriculture's action items related to Access (diversity, creating a global environment for faculty and students, enhanced marketing to recruit undergraduate and graduate students), Excellence (innovative delivery of courses, field-based experiences, interdisciplinary Ph.D. for the life sciences, attracting and mentoring quality faculty members), and Leadership (internships, international experiences for faculty and students, student leadership opportunities, faculty and staff development opportunities).

Creation of the Future 3: Our strategic plan and degree options tie to the following motifs: Motif 1 - building depth versus adding breadth, Motif 2 – Professions critical to the state and region; cultural assets, arts and humanities; history and culture of the Rocky Mountain Region; and Life Sciences, Motif 3 – internationalization; recruitment and retention, Motif 4 – life sciences; recruitment and retention of high achieving and diverse students; increased number of graduate assistantships, and Motif 5 – cultivating leadership skills and opportunities for faculty, staff and students.

Action Items with Implementation Plan:

Leadership Development:

We are fortunate to have donors that recognize the need for professional development, and have provided funds earmarked for that purpose. Currently, faculty members and extended term academic professionals can request professional development dollars to support sabbatical leaves, or to attend and present at professional conferences where the cost is above their departmental allocation. Undergraduate and graduate students can also submit proposals to receive support to present at conferences, attend student leadership trainings, submit creations to juried exhibits, and participate in national and regional fashion shows. To receive funding, students are required to identify a mechanism of sharing their experiences to benefit others by producing a poster, presenting in departmental courses and meetings of student organizations, or posting an article to our webpage.

1. Expand the use of development dollars to include staff development opportunities, such as attending conferences or workshops. (Department head and staff.) Success measures: Request for proposals developed by spring 2009; first staff members accessing funds fall 2009.
2. Explore reduced teaching load for research/creative endeavor intensive semesters on a regular rotation for all faculty members, utilizing donor funds to pay for course coverage by adjuncts. (Department head.) Success measure: cost analysis completed by 2010; rotation plan in place by 2011.
3. Encourage student applications to the Beyond the Classroom and other programs for international opportunities. (Department head and faculty.) Success measures: include information in the Student Handbook, FCSC 1010, and 4010 course shells by 2009; two student submissions per year beginning in 2010.
4. Revise FCSC 4117 Working with Non-Profits and Boards to include a heavier emphasis on student leadership and community leadership development by Fall 2009. (Department head, and appropriate faculty.)

Teaching:

Undergraduate:

4. Revise and update departmental webpage; continue to revise recruitment materials and identify outlets; explore using entry requirements for high-demand program options. (Department head and department committees) Success measures: Decision on entry requirements made by 2011; webpage update by 2010 and ongoing.
5. Continue curriculum mapping and course revisions with input from an alumni survey and ePortfolio student competency assessments. (Department head and FCS faculty) Success measures: follow-up to 2006 alumni survey completed by spring 2012; faculty and outside reviewer competency input ongoing through FCSC 1010 and 4010.)
6. Explore additional internship requirements, internship opportunities and internship funding for our undergraduate students. (Department head, College of Agriculture Development Officer, and faculty). Success measure: Donor materials developed by Fall 2009; internship site lists developed by 2010.

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences has held yearly articulation meetings related to coursework that directly relates to the early childhood birth-five teaching endorsement. However, coursework is being taught at the community colleges in interior design, nutrition, and the scientific study of food. We would like to work more closely with the community colleges, to develop and deliver quality curriculum.

7. Institute regular articulation meetings with the community colleges related to all FCS degree options and articulated coursework. (FCS faculty, department head, Associate Dean of Academic and Student Programs, and community college faculty) Success measure: first meeting held by Spring 2010.)

Graduate:

In the last academic plan, departmental efforts focused on increasing undergraduate majors. The faculty believes that it is time to put our efforts into graduate student recruitment and retention.

8. Examine departmental graduate programs, curriculum and explore the feasibility of distance delivery methods; market our program through webpage changes, brochures, displays, professional meetings, and travel to identified undergraduate institutions. (FCS Graduate Committee, faculty, department office associate senior, and department head.) Success measure: increase graduate students to 12 by 2012 and to 18 by 2015; Decision on delivery methods by 2010.
9. Support and participate in the Integrative Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. program. (Discipline-appropriate FCS faculty.) Success measure: proposal to the Graduate Council in Fall 2008.
10. Explore funding for additional graduate student assistantships through development efforts, women and minority assistantship pool, and grant support dollars. (Department head, College of Agriculture Development Officer, Graduate Committee and faculty). Success measure: Donor materials prepared by department head and Development Officer by 2009; increase assistantships by 50% by 2014.
11. Keep abreast of potential changes in the American Dietetic Association requirements to require all Registered Dietitians to have a Master of Science degree and develop a recommendation. (Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics and the nutrition faculty.) Recommendation for any program changes by 2012 if appropriate.

Research:

Faculty members in Family and Consumer Sciences have historically had high teaching splits. While we remain committed to excellence in teaching, and have increased our extramural funding as a department, we would like to be able to focus more fully on our research and creative endeavor.

12. Increase grant submissions, juried creative submissions and refereed journal publications. Build dollars for additional staff support or student hourly help into grant budgets. (Faculty.) Success measure: increase number of grant submissions by 25%, funded grants by 15%, and refereed/juried submissions by 15% by 2014.
13. Explore funding for laboratory technicians/research associates. (Department head.) Report on funding currently used on campus in other departments by December 2009; prioritized plan written by Spring 2010.

14. Review departmental tenure, promotion and yearly evaluation criteria. (Faculty and department head.) Success measure: Criteria reviewed by May 2010; changes (if needed) adopted by Fall 2010.

The next item speaks to both research and teaching. We believe that the department needs to focus on our strengths and deepen rather than broaden what we do.

15. Target new faculty hires/CPM requests to strengthen our graduate programs. (Department head) Success measure: one new faculty member hired in each of the three program units by 2014: infant toddler development, food management, and retail merchandising and design.

(See Physical Space for additional related items.)

Outreach/Extension:

16. Strengthen our relationship with 4-H, FCCLA and other youth organizations through assistance with curricula, joint meetings, and participation in fairs and conferences. (Faculty, staff, and organization leaders). Success measure: first meeting with 4-H by Fall 2009 and with other organizations by Spring 2010.
17. Continue offering nutrition education to low-income children and adults in Wyoming through the Cent\$ible Nutrition Program (Director and manager of CNP). Success measure: Continued federal funding and strong impact data from participants.
18. Enhance visibility of the Cent\$ible Nutrition Program within Wyoming and across the United States (Director and Manager of CNP). Success measure: Presentations and publications through state, regional and national venues.
19. Obtain and utilize evaluation and impact data to understand and improve effectiveness of the Cent\$ible Nutrition Program (Director and Manager of CNP). Success measure: Conduct and participate in state-wide and multi-state research and implement programmatic changes.
20. Strengthen programming to help Wyoming children, youth and adults achieve healthy lifestyles. (Suzy Pelican, Mary Kay Wardlaw ongoing.) Success measure: Healthier lifestyle behaviors among Wyoming residents; healthy lifestyles programming regularly conducted throughout the state; funds received for research and programming.
21. Complete development of publications associated with WIN the Rockies. (Suzy Pelican, Mike Liebman, Mary Kay Wardlaw.) Success measure: Quality and number of publications made available.
22. Continue to promote success in agriculture for people with disability and their families (Wyoming AgrAbility, ongoing). Success measure: increased work-site assessments and technical assistance; continued funding through USDA.
23. Continue the USDA/CSREES Food Safety grant through completing the training of the small rural food processors and complete the extension bulletin and research publications already begun. (Grant director and coordinator.) Success measure: Quality and number of publications made available.
24. Continue the Consumer Issues Conference as a teaching and outreach effort. (Consumer Issues Conference Planning Committee.) Success measure: Yearly delivery of conference with funding support.

25. Pursue service-related grants that appropriately fit with job descriptions, yield publications or presentations, and strengthen service. (Faculty.) Success measure: one grant per year submitted.

Physical Space:

As our student numbers and our research/creative endeavor productivity have increased, faculty members have identified critical needs in terms of improving our infrastructure. While we have made changes to our classrooms and some of our research labs, many upgrades and renovations still need to be made to insure that our facilities are keeping up with industry standards to best position our students for success in the workplace and our faculty to be competitive in extramural funding, cutting edge research, and design submissions.

26. Create a space utilization committee and undertake an in-depth analysis of current space utilization. (Faculty as a whole; begin fall 2008 and ongoing.) Develop a prioritized plan for renovations, changes in use of space, and equipment needs by December 2009 that includes cost estimates.
27. Identify funding sources based on the prioritized plan. (Space utilization committee and department head; by May 2010.)
28. Develop cases statements for cultivation of new donors through the departmental newsletter and the College of Agriculture's individual departmental mailing brochure that target identified needs. (Department head, beginning Fall 2008 and ongoing.)

The Early Care and Education Center had a waitlist of 163 during the 2007-2008 academic year. Demand for infant and toddler and school-age care continues to increase. Child Care was listed as a critical issue in the 2008 COACHE survey of junior faculty, and is a recruitment and retention issue for faculty, staff and students. A Phase II for the ECEC was designed by the architects at the time that the current building (Phase I) was designed to allow for such an expansion.

29. Explore the feasibility of implementing the Phase II expansion of the Early Care and Education Center as part of the University's Capital Facilities Plan for 2009-2014. (Mark Bittner and Karen Williams, beginning Spring 2009. If the plan is found to be acceptable by all of upper administration, bring to the Trustees for approval by Fall 2010.)
30. Investigate the financial feasibility and impact on the teachers, teaching assistants and teacher aides of increasing calendar days of operation to better serve faculty and staff child care needs. (Mona Gupton, Tracy Bennett, Mark Bittner and Karen Williams, Fall 2008 for potential change in the fee schedule to be submitted Fall 2009 for 2010 implementation.)