

October 31, 2012

Dr. Kenneth Peacock
Chancellor
Appalachian State University
George Holmes Convocation Center
Boone, NC 28608

Dear Dr. Peacock:

This is to report that the Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism, and Related Professions (COAPRT), at its meeting on October 15, 2012 in Anaheim, CA approved continuing accreditation of the Appalachian State University, Department of Health, Leisure, and Exercise Science until 2019 with the requirement of additional information and/or minor revisions.

The Council is pleased that the Department of Health, Leisure, and Exercise Science adopted the 2013 COAPRT Standards, thereby assisting with the development of the standards and evaluation rubrics for the critical learning outcome standards (7.00 Series). The most recent rubric required COAPRT visitors to assign a numerical value from 1 to 5 with 5 being highest for the 7.00 Series. While it was never Council's intent for lower scores (1 or 2) to be interpreted as failure, programs in the early stages of transitioning to outcomes assessment understandably received low ratings.

To better reflect the transitional phases in which many programs find themselves, the Council has adopted a rubric designed to better reflect where a program is in the adoption process. These ratings are:

- *Absent*: evidence indicates the program is not in compliance with this standard, or evidence is insufficient to warrant the conclusion that the program is in compliance with the standard;
- *Emerging*: The program evidences opportunities for student achievement of the learning outcome, has assessment measures of acceptable quality, and a plan in place for collection of assessment results and their utilization;
- *Present*: The program evidences opportunities for student achievement of the learning outcome, has assessment measures of acceptable quality, has collected data, and is utilizing assessment results for continuous program improvement;
- *Exceptional*: The program evidences opportunities for student achievement of the learning outcome, has assessment measures of acceptable quality, has collected data, and is utilizing assessment results for continuous program improvement and evidences extensive and rigorous analysis of assessment measures.

The Council will instruct visitors who submitted reports during the current year to employ the new rubric in reassessing the 7.00 Series and submit an updated report for Council consideration. Upon Council approval, the new assessment will be sent to you and the program. The Council

sincerely regrets any misunderstandings that may have been created as standards and evaluative measures are refined leading up to full adoption on January 1, 2013.

The Council requires the following additional information and/or minor revisions to be sent electronically to COAPRT@nrpa.org no later than August 1, 2013:

- Provide evidence that continuous improvement of advising occurs through evaluation (5.04:01 & 5.04:02)
- Submit assessment plan with learning outcomes, measurement tools (including information about their quality), date for data collection, and how assessment results will be used to improve the curriculum (7.0)

Additionally, the Council approved the following commendations:

- Commitment to quality as evidenced by 15 years of continuous accreditation
- Faculty involvement with practitioners, directly providing resources for students (3.05)
- Faculty scholarship as evidenced by publications, conference presentations and proceedings (4.07)

Your institution's accreditation by the COAPRT is valid until the program's next review in the fall of 2019. The program should expect an on-site visit anytime between November 2018 and April 2019. To maintain accreditation, the institution must also comply with the Council's requirements for timely submission of annual reports and fees.

The Council is pleased to maintain Appalachian State University on the list of accredited institutions. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Danielle Price".

Danielle Price
Accreditation Manager

cc: Dr. Stephanie West
Dr. Fred Whitt