

Program Planning Summary

Submitted by:

Francis Marion University

Program:

Bachelor of Science in Social Science
(Secondary Education Certification)

May 1, 2008



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Francis Marion University

I. PROGRAM DESIGNATION

New Program Proposal – Bachelor of Science in Social Science

Credit Hours in the Program = 126

II. PROPOSED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION: Spring 2009

III. JUSTIFICATION OF NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROGRAM

Francis Marion University is located at the geographical center for nineteen mainly rural school districts. The shortage of highly qualified secondary school teachers, including secondary social studies teachers, is well documented. This shortage has become acute in rural school districts in the Pee Dee Region. The FMU School of Education--in collaboration with the departments of history, economics, sociology, geography, psychology and political science--is proposing a new Social Science degree program that will help meet the need for social studies teachers in the Pee Dee. The proposed Social Science major would be available only to FMU students who are preparing for social studies certification (grades 9-12).

The School of Education, the Teacher Education Advisory Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, FMU Faculty Senate, and FMU faculty have approved the proposed new degree program. The proposed Social Science major will ensure a viable program leading to secondary social studies certification for the following reasons:

1. Courses under the new Social Science major meet revised standards of the National Council for the Social Studies and the South Carolina Department of Education which are required for NCATE accreditation.
2. Of the 39 credit hours required for the Social Science major, 21 credit hours are upper division (300/400 level) social science classes.
3. The new Social Science major requires four social science electives (all upper division classes) which allow for students' individual interests among the social sciences.
4. There is an increase in the number of credit hours in economics and geography required by all social studies certification candidates compared with the old program.
5. Courses required for the Social Science major better prepare students for the Praxis II examination.
6. The new Social Science major reduces the number of credit hours required for graduation by as many as 12 hours compared with old social studies certification programs. The new program requires 126 credit hours, which is more in line with other majors at FMU.

IV. ANTICIPATED DEMAND:

Currently, the combined social studies certification programs at FMU average 3-5 graduates per year. We anticipate that this new major will be more attractive for

potential teachers and may double the number of graduates with social studies certification within three years of the beginning of the program.

V. ASSESSMENT OF EXTENT TO WHICH THE PROPOSED PROGRAM DUPLICATES EXISTING PROGRAMS IN THE STATE:

The CHE Inventory Report of programs for “Secondary Education and Teaching, Social Studies” identifies four South Carolina institutions offering social studies majors leading to initial certification of social studies teachers. They are:

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| The Citadel | undergraduate |
| USC – Aiken | undergraduate |
| Coastal Carolina University | graduate level (M.A.T.) |
| Winthrop University | graduate (M.A.T.) |

With the possible exception of Coastal Carolina University, none of these institutions is a primary provider of teachers for the Pee Dee region.

VI. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM TO EXISTING PROGRAMS AT FMU:

Currently the University provides initial certification in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Middle Level Education, English (Secondary), Social Studies (Secondary), Mathematics (Secondary) and Learning Disabilities (via M.A.T. LD). The Social Science major will replace the social studies certification programs that currently require full majors in specific disciplines (history, economics, sociology, political science and geography).

The creation and maintenance of the Social Science major requires and will continue to require significant cooperation between the School of Education and the other academic disciplines (particularly in the social sciences). This high level of cooperation was seen in the development of the requirements for the major. The high level of cooperation between the School of Education and the arts and sciences can also be seen in our recent accreditation by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

The School of Education will have primary responsibilities for planning, assessing and implementing the Social Science major. The School of Education’s coordinator of field placement will be responsibility for all clinical experiences.

VII. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS VIA INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION:

Francis Marion University accepts for transfer credit the 86 courses included as part of the Statewide Articulation Agreement. For students transferring from two-year institutions to FMU, classes chosen from the list of 86 courses provide an entry path into all baccalaureate degrees offered by FMU, including the proposed Bachelor of Science in Social Science degree program.

In March 2008, Francis Marion University and Florence Darlington Technical College approved a Bridge Partnership Agreement. The Memorandum of Agreement between FMU and FDTC covers all degree programs offered by Francis Marion University, including the proposed Bachelor of Science in Social Science degree program.

In addition, FMU is exploring articulation agreements with Horry Georgetown Technical College and Northeastern Technical College that will facilitate students beginning their studies at those institutions and then transferring the credits to degree requirements at FMU.

VIII. TOTAL NEW COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSED PROGRAM:

As this program is a replacement for programs that are currently in existence, we anticipate no new faculty or expenses for the program. With this program, we hope to attract more students into preparing for secondary social studies certification.