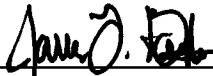


**CLEMSON UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**  
**REQUESTING TO OFFER A NEW DEGREE PROGRAM**  
**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**  
**IN**  
**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

Submitted to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education  
May 1, 2012



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## **Bachelor of Science in Youth Development Studies**

Academic Unit: College of Health, Education and Human Development

Name of Program: Youth Development Studies

Name of Degree: Bachelor of Science

CIP Code: 190799

Implementation Date: August 2013

Number of Credit Hours: 120

Program Length: part-time, fully-online

STEM Applicability: No

Site: Online

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### **Introduction**

The B.S. in Youth Development Studies will be designed as a fully on-line degree completion program for students who have completed previous college coursework and who desire to attain a baccalaureate degree from Clemson University. Prior to being accepted and enrolling at Clemson University students will be required to attain 60 credit hours including coursework that meets Clemson University's General Education requirements as well as required foundational coursework related to youth development. These credits may be obtained from another institution (s) provided that they are congruent with Clemson University's General Education and Youth Development Studies requirements.

The proposed degree completion program will be modeled on the success of the existing M.S. degree in Youth Development Leadership offered through the College of Health, Education, and Human Development, will be delivered entirely online, and will be supported by tuition in a cost recovery financial structure. The program anticipates generating at least \$414,500 in new revenue (after expenses) by year 5 (AY 2017-18).

The proposed B.S. in Youth Development Studies will be a new program proposal. To successfully complete the program, students will need to complete 60 credits (20 total courses) in addition to their approved Clemson University General Education courses and required foundational coursework related to youth development, for a total of 120 credits.

The proposed undergraduate program will be a part-time, fully-online, degree completion program targeted for working professionals. It is expected that students will take approximately 3.5 years to complete the program upon acceptance, taking no more than 6 credit hours (2 courses) per semester.

### **Justification of need for the proposed program.**

The faculty is currently collecting primary source data in collaboration with the South Carolina Afterschool Alliance (SCAA) to document the need for the program among South Carolina youth workers.

However, existing secondary data both in South Carolina and nationally suggests that there is a strong gap in the baccalaureate academic preparation of out-of-school time youth workers. For example, the most recent survey of out-of-school time providers in South Carolina found that approximately 74.4% of program staff did not hold a 4-year degree in any field (SCAA, 2004). Improving staff education, training, and development specific to youth work has been identified as a strong need among South Carolina out-of-school time providers. This need has been confirmed through our on-going collaboration with youth development providers and intermediaries in South Carolina, including our work with the South Carolina Afterschool Association's Executive Director, Ms. Zelda Waymer. The need for baccalaureate-level education is also reflective in national workforce data, as approximately 48% of youth workers nationally do not possess a 4-year degree (Yohalem, Pittman, & Moore, 2006). Youth workers who have received post-secondary education are more likely to be in supervisory or program director roles, suggesting that increasing educational attainment may be a pathway to higher quality jobs in the field (Wilson-Robinson, 2007; Yohalem et al. 2006).

**Anticipated program demand and productivity.**

Based on the gaps in baccalaureate-level education for youth workers, and the consistent identification of professional education and training as a high priority for the field of youth development, we anticipate a strong demand for the program. We can use our current online M.S. degree in Youth Development Leadership as a guide. The program has been in existence since 2006, and has regularly attracted an average of 25-30 new students per year. We anticipate similar demand for an undergraduate program given the gaps in professional education related specifically to youth development. Our curriculum targets are as follows: Fall 2013 (15 new students); Fall 2014 (20 new students); Fall 2015 and beyond (25 new students each year). This growth and sustainability in student demand has been demonstrated over time in the online M.S. degree program.

**Assessment of the extent to which the proposed program duplicates existing programs in the state.**

No similar academic programs exist at any of South Carolina's public or private colleges and universities.

**Relationship of the proposed program to existing programs at the proposing institution.**

The B.S. in Youth Development Studies (along with the existing online M.S. in Youth Development Leadership) will be an academic unit within the interdisciplinary School of Community and Life Enrichment, providing opportunities for relationships with units such as the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management (PRTM), Youth Learning Institute (YLI), Campus Recreation, and the Clemson Institute for Community and Economic Development (CIECD). The B.S. in Youth Development Studies program will work collaboratively with these and other Clemson University academic units to efficiently and effectively deliver the proposed curriculum. For example, existing relationships with the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management (PRTM) will be leveraged to provide Youth Development Studies students with access to approved cognate courses in areas such as nonprofit leadership, camp management, and community recreation programming, while on-campus students majoring in PRTM would benefit from courses in youth and adolescent development. The proposed program in Youth Development Studies also fits seamlessly with existing collaborations in afterschool programming and evaluation with our partners in the Eugene T. Moore School of Education, SC Department of Education, and the Anderson District 1 and 4 school districts.

**Relationship of the proposed program to other institutions via inter-institutional cooperation.**

Since the online B.S. in Youth Development Studies is an innovative undergraduate program with no similar academic counterparts in the state, we believe that there will be ample opportunity to work with other South Carolina institutions to extend the reach of the program. For example, given the state of the youth development workforce, partnerships with 2-year colleges such as Tri-County and Greenville Technical Colleges will be explored to encourage students to seamlessly articulate coursework into Clemson University. Existing collaborations with state agencies such as the SC Department of Juvenile Justice and SC Department of Education will continue to be leveraged to provide resources and opportunities for youth development Studies students.

**Brief discussion of the curriculum.**

There is a need for more highly qualified youth development personnel to provide comprehensive and more intentional activities, programs, and Studies for a wide-range of youth development organizations. As an online degree completion program targeted towards working professionals, we expect the B.S. in Youth Development Studies will be attractive to those who are currently working in youth-oriented programs, agencies, or organizations, or to those who desire to work on behalf of young people in programs that help to foster and promote positive well-being. Examples of such programs and organizations include but are not limited to out-of-school time programs, 4-H, the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, military family and youth programs, and faith-based youth organizations among others. The Youth Development Studies core curriculum will be designed to build and strengthen the competencies needed to successfully work in high quality youth-serving organizations. These include: developing and implementing best practices youth programs; conducting effective program evaluations; successfully leading youth activities and programs; possessing knowledge of child and adolescent development; having the ability to work with diverse youth; developing relationships and partnerships with families, schools, and community organizations; possessing knowledge of family and community development; developing successful grant writing skills; managing staff and volunteers; and developing budgeting and sustainable financial management skills. The undergraduate program will also prepare students for graduate-level education in youth development leadership, by preparing students to think critically, leverage knowledge to successfully solve real-world problems, and effectively communicate in oral and written form.

**Proposed Budget:**

The implementation of the proposed budget would include the following new expenses: 2 new faculty, 1 administrative/student support, and 7 adjunct faculty (one course each). The fulltime faculty would be hired in year 1 and year 3. In addition to basic operating costs, CCIT costs are included in the budget for the online support required. Therefore new funds for year 1 are \$149,500 and by year 3 the cost will be \$185,500. Tuition recovery will cover all expenditures of the degree program, with a surplus each year.