Overview of the program. The M.A., M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences is housed in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences within the College of Applied Science and Technology. The department also offers the B.A., B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences program, a minor in family and consumer sciences, and participates in the Graduate Certificate in Social Aspects of Aging. The M.A., M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) is a comprehensive program that allows each student to develop a discipline-specific program of study. The program prepares students to become registered dietitians and certified child life specialists, teach at the community college level, pursue a doctorate, and advance in family and consumer sciences careers. Approximately two-thirds of students in the program enroll in either the dietetic internship sequence or the child life program of study. Both recruit students nationally and internationally.

Description of the self-study process. The department conducted self-studies for five program accreditations during the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 academic years. These specialized accreditation reviews required widespread involvement by faculty, staff, students, and advisory boards composed of employers and alumni and provided an excellent foundation for the program review report that was written in summer and fall 2012. The program review coordinator designated by the department chairperson utilized data provided by the Office of Planning, Research, and Policy Analysis on campus as well as data from alumni and senior exit surveys to analyze the program. Program faculty, students, and staff were extensively involved in the program review process.

Curriculum of the program. Each student entering the M.A., M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences program chooses either a 32-credit hour thesis option, 33-credit hour option for dietetic internship, or a 39-credit hour non-thesis option. Students selecting the non-thesis option complete a scholarly project approved by the graduate coordinator in conjunction with the graduate faculty. Degree requirements for both the thesis and non-thesis options include three core courses in theories and contemporary issues in family and consumer sciences, statistics in applied science and technology, and introduction to research methodology. In addition to the thesis, students in the 32-credit hour program complete at least 15 credit hours at the graduate level (i.e., courses numbered 400 or above) and at least 16 credit hours in family and consumer sciences. The 39-credit hour program requires at least 18 credit hours at the graduate level and at least 20 credit hours in family and consumer sciences. Students in the dietetic internship sequence work through the program as a cohort. After two semesters of classes, students complete a full year of supervised practice rotations at approved sites while working on their thesis. Because students in the child life plan of study come from a variety of disciplines, each student has an individualized plan of study. Students complete a one-semester internship at an approved site during the final semester. Because the internship experience is intensive, few child life students select the thesis option. The M.A., M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences program is not offered at off-campus locations.

Faculty of the program or unit. All tenured and tenure track faculty members in the department hold terminal degrees in their area of specialization, and all but the most recent hire have full graduate faculty status. Non-tenure track faculty members hold at least a master’s degree and have either teaching or professional experience in their area of specialization. The typical teaching load is three courses per semester with no additional credit given for large sections. Faculty members do not receive reassigned time for serving as sequence coordinator, graduate program coordinator, and some accredited program directors. All tenured and tenure track faculty members receive 0.25 full-time-equivalent reassigned time for research.

Goals and quality measures for the program. Since the department holds five accreditations, goals and quality measures for the M.A., M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences program are based on the overarching accreditation by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and more sequence-specific standards set by other accreditors. Quality measures applicable to all areas of study in the graduate program include small classes which promote faculty-student interaction, program flexibility to allow for individualized program planning, selectivity in admissions to ensure a high-quality student population, state-of-the art laboratories and equipment, and graduate student research partnerships with faculty. Quality measures specific to areas of study within the graduate program include industry-grade equipment in foods and textile laboratories, strong clinical sites in teaching-research hospitals for child life and dietetic interns, and access to state-of-the art computer technology in drafting and studio laboratories for interior and environmental design students.
**Budget planning process.** Strategic planning and budgeting is a transparent process in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. At the beginning of each fall semester, the department chairperson reviews the current strategic plan with the faculty. While faculty members may make suggestions for revision directly to the chairperson, the graduate coordinator works with faculty to develop a list of equipment needs, remodeling projects, and additional staffing and enhancement requests. The chairperson then develops funding proposals based on the strategic plan. The chairperson shares the proposals with graduate faculty prior to its submitting them to the college dean’s office.

**Description of any accreditation this program receives.** The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is accredited by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) Credentialing Center. A self-study for reaccreditation was submitted in spring 2010, and a peer review team visited campus in spring 2011. In November 2011, AAFCS granted accreditation to the department. The next accreditation review of the department is scheduled for 2021. The dietetic internship sequence in the graduate program has been granted continuing full accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). The most recent site visit occurred in April 2011. At that time the program was granted a full 10-year accreditation with no follow-up visits required until the next full cycle visit. Currently there is no accreditation available for the child life plan of study. However, the child life curriculum is registered with the Child Life Council. Students completing the child life plan of study are eligible to take the Child Life Professional Certification Examination.

**Summary and effectiveness of the student learning outcomes assessment plan.** Program faculty members have developed a student learning outcomes assessment plan for the graduate program. The current assessment plan on file with University Assessment Services on campus was updated following recent accreditation site visits and again in fall 2012. The student learning assessment plan relies heavily on course evaluation data (as dictated by accreditation standards) and on information from alumni surveys. A separate assessment plan developed for the dietetic internship sequence involves all constituents and meets requirements of the accrediting agency.

**Actions taken since the last program review including responses to recommendations for program improvement.** The 2004-2005 program review recommended that the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences develop a plan that establishes academic goals and strategic directions for the program, review the generalist approach to the program to determine its viability given program strengths in child life and dietetic internship, increase the number of graduate level courses in the child life and dietetic internship areas to advance program strengths, develop a plan to track alumni and use their feedback to improve the program, report on library contributions to the program, and identify external funding sources as well as support and increase grantsmanship and scholarly productivity. Each of these recommendations has been addressed by the program. The department has focused on developing a department-wide strategic plan that includes goals, strategies, and actions that impact faculty hiring, graduate curriculum, scholarship, creative activity, and research. The department is currently searching for a new chairperson and, as a result of this program review self-analysis, its faculty has recommended that the new chairperson conduct a comprehensive review of the graduate program. Six faculty members have been established as full members of the graduate faculty, two graduate-level courses have been developed and a third has been proposed, program admission has become more selective, and the University has allowed the department to hire a new faculty member at the associate professor level. The faculty has studied viability of the curriculum and has concluded that the comprehensive approach is still a valuable option to students. A comprehensive degree in the discipline can be earned at universities throughout the country. Students who select the generalist option typically have an undergraduate degree from a family and consumer sciences department or college and wish to continue their study in a program with an underlying family systems focus. Regarding alumni, strong faculty-student collaboration has resulted in an almost 100 percent tracking rate for program graduates. While most alumni contact information is currently held by program coordinators, the graduate coordinator has initiated discussions regarding integration of alumni information into a single database. Since the last program review, department faculty has worked closely with the FCS subject specialist at Milner Library to ensure that integration of library resources into research and learning for each area of study is well documented. Faculty members have continued to provide input on acquisition and retention of library resources. Recent faculty hires have brought an exciting new level of scholarly and creative productivity to the department. In the past two years, faculty members have initiated numerous grant application submissions to support research, including funding requests to the United States Census Bureau, United States Department of Agriculture, and State Farm Insurance. Two endowed funds have been established to provide funding for travel and professional development related to research.
Description and assessment of major changes in the program or discipline since the last program review.
The most significant change in the graduate program since the last program review has been the almost complete
turnover among graduate faculty. Ten of the 14 graduate faculty members are new to the department since the last
program review. This change, coupled with the anticipated hiring of a new chairperson, provides a unique
opportunity for reviewing and redeveloping the graduate program.

Description of major findings and recommendations as a result of this program review. As a result of this
program review, the following initiatives have been identified as department priorities for the next three to five
years: continue to monitor support for graduate assistantships and practica in order to recruit and support talented
graduate students, conduct a comprehensive review of the graduate program once a new department chairperson has
been hired, monitor development of curricular and accreditation standards by the Child Life Council and determine
whether the department should seek accreditation when it becomes available, integrate separate alumni tracking
systems used for individual areas of study into a single alumni database, and continue efforts to diversify the
graduate program student body and faculty.

Actions to be taken as a result of this program review including a summary of initiatives and plans for the
next three to five years. A key action to be taken related to the M.A., M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences
program is selecting a permanent chairperson for the department. Once that has been accomplished, program faculty
will focus on the following priorities: conduct a comprehensive review of the graduate program, initiate a process to
ensure that assessment conducted through maintenance of specialized accreditation is incorporated into assessment
processes developed with University Assessment Services on campus, and monitor the development of curricular
and accreditation standards by the Child Life Council and determine whether the department should seek
accreditation when it becomes available. Program faculty will also pursue other initiatives identified in the previous
section of this summary.

Review Outcome. The Academic Planning Committee, as a result of this review process, finds the M.A, M.S. in
Family and Consumer Sciences to be in Good Standing.

The committee thanks the program for a clear, concise, critical, and forward-looking program review report,
including an outstanding analysis of the program in relation to peer and aspirational programs.

The committee congratulates the program on its contributions to accreditation of the Department of Family and
Consumer Sciences in 2011 by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, on accreditation of the
dietetic internship sequence in 2011 by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics, and on
registration of the child life curriculum with the Child Life Council.

The committee commends the program for its more selective approach to admissions resulting in improved student
quality and show rates, for participation by students in co-curricular activities, for increased involvement by students
in research and conference presentations, and for developing and maintaining intern partnerships with respected
medical institutions in the region and nationwide for the benefit of students in the dietetic internship sequence and
child life program of study. The committee recognizes program initiatives to mentor new faculty and to acclimate
them to department and university culture and values, increased scholarly productivity and grantsmanship among
faculty, and integration with Milner Library to support student and faculty research.

The program has done a fine job identifying challenges and opportunities for the program through the program
review self-study process. With a new chairperson soon joining the department, it would be appropriate to revisit the
self-study as part of a comprehensive review of the graduate program, as has been recommended by program
faculty. Accordingly, the committee asks that the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences submit a follow-up
report to the Provost’s Office summarizing the comprehensive graduate curriculum review process, review findings,
and specific actions the program will take during the next program review cycle as a result of the review. The
committee asks that the program submit its report to the Provost’s Office by October 1, 2015.
Recommendations. The Academic Planning Committee makes the following recommendations to be addressed within the next regularly scheduled review cycle. In the next program review self-study, tentatively due October 1, 2020, the committee asks the program to describe actions taken and results achieved for each recommendation.

- Continue working with University Assessment Services to further develop student learning outcomes for all sequences and to integrate ongoing program assessment with assessment processes required by accreditors.
- Continue efforts to recruit students and faculty from underrepresented groups.
- Continue efforts to integrate disciplinary alumni tracking information into a single alumni database.
- Monitor development of curricular and accreditation standards by the Child Life Council, modify the child life program of study accordingly, and determine whether the program should seek accreditation from the council should it become available.

### Comparative Data, M.A. and M.S. in Family and Consumer Science (19.0101)

**Fall Enrollment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Illinois University</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois State University</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>127</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fiscal Year Degrees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Illinois University</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois State University</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>49</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fiscal Year Discipline Costs per Credit Hour**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Illinois University</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois State University</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td>211</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fiscal Year Credit Hours per Staff Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Illinois University</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois State University</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td>655</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>444</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>