



April 26, 2019

Mr. Douglas D. Miles
Director, Institutional Effectiveness
and Accreditation
SACSCOC Liaison
University of South Carolina - Columbia
1710 College Street
Columbia, SC 29208

Dear Mr. Miles:

Thank you for your letter of December 19, 2018, transmitting a prospectus for the Master of Science degree program in Adapted Physical Education, effective fall 2019.

The degree program, which is consistent with the mission of the University and the strategic goals of the College of Education, is intended to meet the continuing education professional education needs of certified teachers who work with or plan to work with children and adolescents with disabilities in physical education settings. The program will be offered online by the Department of Physical Education in the College of Education at the University. It is the only program of this type in the state and one of only 10 programs nationally. It will be the only program of its kind nationally which is delivered 100% online. The program will address a shortage of Adapted Physical Educators. Data was provided concerning job opportunities for program graduates. Appropriate planning and approvals were described and documented.

Three admission processes for the program were described. The curriculum, proposed schedule of offerings, and course descriptions for the program were provided. Credit hours assigned to courses and the program appear consistent with procedures for determining amount and level of credit. The program is not an initial teacher certification program and does not require students to sit for the Certified Adapted Physical Educator certification, but coursework will provide students with necessary knowledge and skills to be successful on the exam. Program objectives and a table identifying key assessments tied to coursework were provided. Assessment data will be gathered from practical and observation assignments, course exams/assignments and a culminating action research project and will be reviewed yearly by faculty members. The program will be reviewed on a rotating 7-year cycle by the Quality Assurance Committee in the College of Education. The department will also track employment. The University's procedures for program assessment include a two-year schedule within which colleges report assessment findings and use of results of assessment for improvement.

A detailed list of discipline-specific electronic education journals, electronic physical education resources, and print and electronic special education resources to support the program was provided. In addition, 19 databases by subject were listed. Students may access resources online through the University library website. Information concerning access is included on Blackboard class websites. Course readings are placed into Blackboard by librarians and the e-Reserves service provides links to databases including streaming video as well as journal articles. A chat function allows students and instructors to chat with a



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librarian in real time as needed. Interlibrary loan service is available and librarians will mail books to a home address.

Student support services available to students enrolled in the program include a live program orientation via video conference; advising provided by an advisor from the department via phone, email, or video conference; graduate student support staff services; assistance with study skills, tutoring services, and the early intervention referral program; Career Center services including individual and group career counseling, mock interviews, online job and internship postings; counseling services; and registration services.

The program will be offered completely online. The existing infrastructure for offering online courses and programs appears adequate to support the program. The University is approved to offer 50% or more of programs online. Financial support for the site to include projected revenues and expenses appears adequate.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Master of Science degree program in Adapted Physical Education. It was the decision of the Board to approve the program and include it in the scope of the current accreditation.

Enclosed is an invoice for \$500 to help defray the cost of review of the prospectus.

At its meeting in June 2018, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees approved modification of the *Substantive Change Policy for SACSCOC Accredited Institutions Policy Statement* for any type of substantive change requiring approval. If an approved substantive change has not been implemented within two years of action by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, the institution will need to submit a new prospectus for the change or application for a level change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/ABC:lp

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Harris Pastides, President
Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover