

Social work program moving closer to accreditation

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The Social Work program at Winston-Salem State is closer to being an accredited program.

Isiah Marshall, an associate professor and coordinator of social work, said that the Council on Social Work Education visited in February. The results were reported to the program in June.

Representative James Adams, a commissioner from the CSWE, conducted the site visit. Based on the program's documents and a review brief, he recommended a second view of candidacy.

During the visit, Adams met with the social work faculty to discuss the curriculum and the administrators regarding accreditation. He also met with the majors to get their opinion about the program.

Adams gave a preliminary report to the social work program to continue candidacy.

Marshall said that everyone is pleased with the outcome of the visit.

"The students reacted very positively to Dr. Adams," Marshall said. "They were very excited and felt comfortable in letting him know what the program was doing."

Lauren Pointer, a junior social work major from Burlington, said that she was excited about the commissioner's visit.

"I, personally, am not worried about accreditation," Pointer said.

"They [faculty and administrators] are doing what needs to be done to ensure that our program gets their accreditation."

The next visit will be between November and February 2011. The outcome of this visit decides whether they will be scheduled for the full initial accreditation site visit next fall. If so, they will have to prepare for another visit in four years. Site visits must be conducted every eight years.

Marshall said that graduates of the now unaccredited program are working in the field, and attending graduate schools of Wake Forest Law School, and UNC-Charlotte.

WSSU does not have a graduate program for social work. Marshall said that it would be a good idea to catch students on their off years because most schools take graduate applications for social work every two years.

"Yes, it [a graduate social work program] seems to be an area to be explored," Marshall said.

Students, faculty offer different viewpoints for online classes

Dawn Swinnie
ARGUS CONTRIBUTOR

Returning students are finding ways to decrease their work load, increase their GPA, and make more time for studying.

They have turned to taking online classes, but not everyone is taking them.

"Online classes cause more stress," said Steven Logan, a junior business management major from Forest City, N.C.

Online classes give students the ability to work at their own pace without feeling rushed or overwhelmed by the workload. Students who have chosen online classes are trying to find a new method to pass classes, but for others, it has turned out to be the contrary.

"I have heard a lot of bad things about online classes, most of my friends have failed them," said Kelsey Mobley, a junior mass communications major from Gastonia.

Instructors of online classes are as available to the students taking their course online just as they are for students taking classroom courses.

"Some are more determined to understand the information since they do not have a classroom to attend. If I had to estimate the percentage of online students that I actually

have contact with it would be approximately 8 percent," said Jeremy Lane, a mathematics professor.

"I like online classes, but I would rather be in a classroom for classes like math," said Tiffany Walls, a junior biology major from Shelby, N.C.

Others have different opinions about online classes.

"Online classes would be great; I won't have to walk up all these hills every day," said Bianca Smith, a junior molecular biology and biology technology major from Fayetteville.

Lynette Wood, an accounting professor, does not conduct any online classes and does not plan to in the future. She said she believes that students learn better in a classroom.

"They [online classes] are manageable for any student, non-traditional students as well," said Aisha Martin, a junior health care management major from Lexington.

Martin has two online classes this semester.

"Most online students tend to be non-traditional students. Older students often take a different interest in their work than traditional aged students," said Sonya Miller, an English professor.

RAMS WALK: A way to stay fit at WSSU

Brittany McEachirn
ARGUS CONTRIBUTOR

Winston-Salem State is offering a campus-wide initiative called "Rams Walk" to bring awareness to the students about the importance of physical activity and its relevance to overall health.

The new program, created by Cynthia Williams-Brown, began Sept. 20.

"Rams Walk is designed with all people in mind, something simple yet a great way to get in shape and stay healthy," said Williams-Brown, chair and associate professor of secondary education.

"Some main areas the program is targeting are weight loss, high blood pressure prevention and control, increased levels of good cholesterol, and reduction in the risk factors for type 2 diabetes."

It is a walking program that works with all schedules and accommodates every fitness ability.

Rams Walk will include a nine-month walking series in which participants will be asked to log their daily steps. A pedometer will be provided to all student participants. "At first, when I read the fliers, I thought it was going to be easy and something I would get bored with very fast," said Arthur McIlwain, a junior education major from Charlotte.

"Then when I logged on the web site on the flier I saw it had more to offer the participants."

The program offers two types of walking groups. There are walking groups for participants who want to take part in a structured program; these groups meet twice a week.

There is also a program for

participants who do not want to walk with a group.

All walkers will be asked to log their daily steps and weekly sessions. All participants will be encouraged to walk at least 10,000 steps per day.

"Physical fitness is a huge part of band, if I had more time I would definitely join this program," said Leigh Taylor, a junior management information systems major from Greensboro.

"When I heard about Rams Walk, I told my mom to come join, and with no hesitation she said 'yes.'"

Along with the walking program, there will be two seminars focusing on the importance of physical activities and nutrition.

Registration is required and is available online, or in person at the Department of Secondary Education in Anderson C131.

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