

September 11, 2019

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, President
Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

This letter is notification of the College of Coastal Georgia's intention to offer a new baccalaureate degree program – Bachelor of Science degree in Data Science with concentrations in Computational Data Analytics, Healthcare Analytics, Financial Analytics, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship – **beginning Fall Semester 2020**. This is in accordance with *Substantive Change for SACSCOC Accredited Institutions* Policy Statement—Procedure Two: Review of Substantive Change Requiring **Only** Notification Prior to Implementation. The College recently received approval at the August 8, 2019, meeting of the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents to offer this new baccalaureate degree program. A copy of the Chancellor's letter of approval is attached.

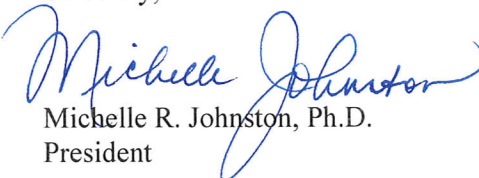
The new baccalaureate degree program repackages existing curriculum within the current baccalaureate degrees in Mathematics, Business Administration, and Health Informatics, adding a small number of new courses to formalize the new program curriculum. Specifically, the Bachelor of Science degree in Data Science allows for an interdisciplinary approach to data analytics, bridging the curriculum within the scientific computing concentration within the Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with real-world applications and careers in Business and Health Informatics.

The new Bachelor of Science degree in Data Science is intended to produce talented, bachelors-prepared graduates ready to respond to local and regional workforce need. Big Data underlies every aspect of modern life and work, and this is true of every population center, including Southeast Georgia. A 2018 report on local high demand career opportunities within the coastal Georgia region identified local workforce need, echoing trends that were identified at the state level: Information Technology, Logistics, Manufacturing, Management, and Medicine & Health.

The new baccalaureate program will meet the academic goals of our students and the documented needs of our region, as well as our local and regional business and industry employers. The faculty resources and the instructional facilities will be in place to ensure the program's success.

Thank you, your staff and the Commission for your leadership and mentorship. We look forward to your direction on next steps.

Sincerely,


Michelle R. Johnston, Ph.D.
President

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Nuria Cuevas, SACSCOC Institutional Liaison
Dr. Johnny L. Evans, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Jim Lynch, Accreditation Liaison



**BOARD OF REGENTS OF
THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA**

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August 19, 2019

Dr. Michelle Johnston
President
College of Coastal Georgia
Office of the President
One College Drive
Brunswick, GA 31520

Dear President Johnston:

At the August 2019 meeting, the Board of Regents approved the following request related to academic programs. Approval for the following program was effective August 8, 2019

- Establishment of a Bachelor of Science with a major in data science

If you have any questions or need, additional documentation please let me know.

Sincerely,

Martha L. Venn, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Cc: Dr. Johnny Evans, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs