

February 6, 2017

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 comes to provide notification of the College of Coastal Georgia's intention to offer a new baccalaureate degree program – Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences – **beginning Fall Semester 2017**. The College anticipates receiving approval at the May 2017 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 will be sent to you immediately thereafter.

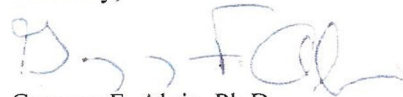
Human population growth and related activities are increasingly generating environmental pressures on the planet. This is especially true in coastal Georgia, which is rich in natural resources and ecosystem services that support biodiversity, public health, and the economy. There is thus a critical need to train professionals who can identify these challenges, develop science-based solutions, and lead public and private actions to protect, manage, and sustain the environment for generations to come, along the Georgia coast and beyond.

The Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences will equip students with knowledge, tools, and techniques from a variety of disciplines spanning the natural sciences (e.g., geology, chemistry, biology), social sciences (e.g., sustainability, public policy, psychology, economics), and humanities (e.g., history, ethics). Additionally, the new baccalaureate degree program will build upon existing degree programs in Biological Sciences (concentration in Coastal Ecology) and American Studies (concentration in Environmental and Regional Studies) and be strengthened by expanded community-based learning opportunities that incorporate broader approaches from the physical sciences and sustainable development while serving critical needs in the region.

In summation, 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 are 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,



Gregory F. Aloia, Ph.D.
President

cc: Dr. Nuria Cuevas, SACSCOC Institutional Liaison
Dr. Tracy Pellett, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
✓Dr. Jim Lynch, Accreditation Liaison