

January 23, 2015

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 Interdisciplinary Studies – **beginning Fall Semester 2015**. The College anticipates receiving approval at the March 2015 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.

The BS in Interdisciplinary Studies will follow the standard 60 hours of common core, 18 hours of dedicated Interdisciplinary Studies Core, plus 21 hours of electives at the 3-4000 level, and 21 hours of general electives to build-in as much flexibility as possible. The required Interdisciplinary Studies Core (with the exception of two courses: Foundations in Interdisciplinary Studies and Interdisciplinary Approaches/Methods) would be taken from existing classes in the College catalog and would shape the ethos of the degree. Students will be encouraged to adopt targeted groups of classes for proficiency standards in particular areas of study from among a broad range of electives (particularly if they plan to pursue a graduate degree(s)). Significantly, however, the degree would also allow a range of students who have accumulated a number of credit hours, but who are no longer actively pursuing a major, to be able to successfully complete a customizable program and graduate with a degree.

The overarching goal of Interdisciplinary Studies is to allow students to enter a variety of career tracks via their discipline focus, or go on to graduate study in their fields. The proposed baccalaureate program will have available concentrations in communication, business, science, technology, education, social science, and culture, based on existing classes, and consolidating existing programs. Additionally, Interdisciplinary Studies will encourage communication skills, critical thinking, problem-solving, team-exercises and adaptability—critical skills for the emerging workplace and the kinds of skills that the workforce is lacking.

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 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. Lance Carluccio, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Jim Lynch, Accreditation Liaison