Assessment and Action Plan—Academic Degree Programs

School/College: David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics

Academic Degree Program Title: Child and Family Studies

Degree Awarded: M.A.

Web Address: http://falk.syr.edu/ChildFamilyStudies/Masters.aspx

Description of Academic Degree Program: The Master's program in CFS is designed to provide students with an advanced level of theoretical and substantive knowledge about the discipline. The CFS M.A. is typically selected by students who are interested in pursuing a non-clinical professional career in human service organizations, such as in Head Start, National Center for Educational Statistics, Boys and Girls Club, and Child Care Solutions. The M.A. consists of 30-credit hours, which is comprised of 15 credit hours of required course work, 12 credits of elective courses, and 3 project credits.

PHASE 1			PHASE 2		PHASE 3	
Student Learning Outcomes What are students expected to be able to do as a result of the program?	**Measures** What direct and indirect assessment measures will be used?	**Criteria** How will competency be determined?	**Results** What was learned in the assessment process?	**Interpretation** What do results mean to the program?	**Action** Based on the results and interpretation from Phase 2, what action will be taken?	**Follow-Up** How will you determine if the change made a difference?
1. Students will analyze and evaluate theory and empirical research on children and families.	• Final grades in course work covering theory (CFS 637, CFS 648), research (CFS 621, CFS 631), and cross-cultural issues (CFS 667) • Master's project	• At least 80% of students will receive a B or higher in each course • Using a rubric with a scale of 1-5, 90% of students achieve ratings of 4 (good) or higher on items related to this outcome.				
2. Students will explain human development and changes in individuals and families across the lifespan	• Final grades in course work covering lifespan theory (CFS 637, CFS 648) and cross-cultural issues (CFS 667) • Master's project	• At least 80% of students will receive a B or higher in each course • Using a rubric with a scale of 1-5, 90% of students achieve ratings of				

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		4 (good) or higher on items related to this outcome.				
3. Students will explain and apply the roles of development and change in different cultural communities and contexts.	• Final grade in cross-cultural issues (CFS 667) • Master's project	• At least 80% of students will receive a B or higher in this course • Using a rubric with a scale of 1-5, 90% of students achieve ratings of 4 (good) or higher on items related to this outcome.				
4. Students will apply knowledge about issues of child and family development in practice.	• Final grade in research methods (CFS 631) • Master's project: Student project is evaluated by the faculty who oversee the student's work. These faculty document areas of strengths and weaknesses for the students under their supervision, using a 1-5 rubric developed by the department.	• At least 80% of students will receive a B or higher in this course • Faculty will meet as a collective to review areas identified as lower than 3 to review match between objective and the curriculum.				

Recommendations for improving the degree program assessment processes:

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