

INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE SYSTEM RECOMMENDATION FORM

RECOMMENDED BY: Steven Lacek

CHECK ONE: Individual Committee Council/Senate

1. STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDATION:



It is recommended that the Addiction Counseling CAS and AAS programs be discontinued and that individualized teach-out plans be developed for any student who currently has either of these degrees declared as a major.

2. RATIONALE:

After gathering information from faculty, student advisors, four-year institutions, and current and former students, it was determined that these programs do not adequately meet the needs of students. The need exists for behavioral health technicians, but these degrees do not adequately prepare students for this career. Therefore a new option for the existing Health Care Professional has been developed to meet this need. Students wishing to transfer to a four-year institution to pursue a counseling degree are better served by Southern's existing Associate in Arts degree.

3. BENEFITS (List all constituents who would benefit):

Students who wish to gain entry-level employment in the behavioral health fields. Students who wish to transfer into bachelor's or master's level counseling programs. Advisors who work with these students. Faculty who were asked to prepare for several various lectures.

4.  4/23/2015
Signature of Committee Chair or Date
Individual Submitting the Recommendation
 ✓ Approved by MCAS 4/23/2015
Chair, MCAS

5. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATION:

Approved Denied

John Teuch
Chair's Signature

5/6/2015

Date

Explanation for Denial:

6. PRESIDENT'S CABINET RECOMMENDATION:

Approved Denied

Jane Jago Jombani
President's Signature

5/19/15
Date

Explanation for Denial:

7. BOARD OF GOVERNORS RECOMMENDATION:

Approved Denied

Board of Governors Chair Signature
(if applicable)

Date

Explanation for Denial:

Copied to:

Submitting Individual, Committee Chairperson, or Council/Senate Chairperson

Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College
Post Audit Review – Additional Follow-up Report
April 13, 2015

PROGRAM: CAS/AAS – Addiction Counseling

At its meeting on October 17, 2013, the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education deferred action on Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College's CAS/AAS Addiction Counseling programs, requesting a follow-up report addressing program necessity and viability.

At the time of its post-audit review, the Addiction Counseling programs were housed under the Social Sciences Department. When the Social Science Department Chair retired, the Social Sciences and Humanities departments were combined. Less than a year after this merge, the Department Chair of Humanities and Social Sciences also retired. Southern adopted a new organizational structure for its academic units and the programs were placed in what is currently the Division of Social Sciences, Education, and Non-traditional Programs.

The individual over this division had no previous direct connection to the programs. Therefore, with little previous knowledge of the programs, the new Division Head reviewed the program, and gathered information from faculty, student advisors, four-year institutions, and current and former students.

Unfortunately, careers that support the treatment of addiction are needed in Southern's service area. However, students who complete the CAS or AAS in Addiction Counseling are unlikely to gain employment as counselors unless continuing their education. Instead, these individuals are more likely to serve in support roles in behavioral health facilities.

As a result of these findings, it was decided to work with Southern's successful Division of Allied Health to reinvent the program as the Behavioral Health Option of the already existing Health Care Professional AAS. The curriculum is attached.

Moving forward, Southern will develop individualized teach out plans for the few students who have declared Addiction Counseling CAS or AAS as their major. The Addiction Counseling programs have been removed from the 2015-2016 Academic Catalog. Prospective students who wish to pursue a career in addiction counseling will be advised to pursue Southern's AA while working closely with their chosen receiving institution when selecting elective courses.