

Assessment Cycle 2023 - 2024

Program: Child and Family Studies - 137

College: Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development

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Date: 05/25/24

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Date: 06/04/24

Northwestern Mission. Northwestern State University is a responsive, student-oriented institution committed to acquiring, creating, and disseminating knowledge through teaching, research, and service. With its certificate, undergraduate, and graduate programs, Northwestern State University prepares its increasingly diverse student population to contribute to an inclusive global community with a steadfast dedication to improving the region, state, and nation.

Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development Mission. The Gallaspy Family College of Education and Human Development is committed to working collaboratively to acquire, create, and disseminate knowledge to Northwestern students through transformational, high-impact experiential learning practices, research, and service. Through the School of Education and Departments of Health and Human Performance, Military Science, Psychology, and Social Work, the College produces knowledgeable, inspired, and innovative graduates ready for lifelong learning who contribute to the communities in which they reside and professions they serve. Additionally, the GCEHD is dedicated to the communities served by the Marie Shaw Dunn Child Development Center, NSU Elementary Laboratory School, NSU Middle Laboratory School, and the NSU Child and Family Network to assist children and their families related to learning and development.

School of Education Mission. The School of Education offers exemplary programs that prepare candidates for career success in a variety of professional roles and settings. As caring, competent, reflective practitioners, our graduates become positive models in their communities and organizations. This mission is fulfilled through academic programs based on theory, research, and best practice. Further, all graduates learn to value and work with diverse populations and to incorporate technologies that enrich learning and professional endeavors.

Child and Family Studies (CFS) Mission: Child and Family Studies, a program within the School of Education, in the Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development at Northwestern State University of Louisiana, is dedicated to empowering and strengthening individuals, families, and communities, thereby, improving quality of life. Child and Family Studies uses an integrative approach to the relationships among individuals, families and communities, and the environments in which they function. This program prepares individuals for careers and professions in the field of family sciences by incorporating technology, respect for diversity, and global perspectives into the curricula.

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Methodology.

The assessment process for this program is as follows:

1. Program faculty meet regularly to outline a logical progression of activities for assessing whether curriculum goals and learning outcomes have been met.
2. Program faculty establish expected outcomes with appropriate benchmarks to assess achievement of curriculum goals and describe how mastery is assessed.
3. Program faculty collect data at the end of each academic semester, which provides results on student learning outcomes, knowledge, skills, and dispositions.
4. Annually, program faculty review data to make curricular/program changes.

Student Learning Outcomes.

SLO 1

Course Map: CFS 1070, Professionalism in Child and Family Studies

Departmental Student Learning Goal	Program Student Learning Outcome
Demonstrate discipline-specific content knowledge.	Students will demonstrate knowledge of the NCFR Ethical Principles and Guidelines for Family Scientists.

Measure 1.1. (Direct Assessment of Student Knowledge and Skills)

SLO 1 is assessed through the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) Paper in the CFS program's introductory course, CFS 1070, Professionalism in Child and Family Studies. In this assessment, students review and analyze the NCFR Ethical Principles and Guidelines for Family Scientists, which were developed to:

1. inspire and encourage family scientists to act ethically.
2. provide guidance in dealing with often complex ethical issues.
3. provide ethical guidance in areas that family scientists may overlook; and
4. enhance the professional image and status of family scientists by increasing the level of professional consciousness.

The assessment is evaluated using a rubric. Employing the NCFR principles and guidelines as a model, the CFS Program Coordinator developed the rubric and shared it with program faculty. CFS program faculty voted to approve the rubric as a key assessment in the fall of 2019. The benchmark performance is that at least 80% of the students enrolled in the course will score at least 80% on this key assessment.

Finding: Target was not met.

Analysis.

In AC 2022-2023 the target was met. 52 out of 63 students or 81% scored 80 or better in the assignment. Based on the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 data, faculty

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implemented the following changes in AC 2023-2024 to drive the cycle of improvement.

- The rubric for the assignment was analyzed and determined that professional ethics were not being emphasized enough and needed revising. The rubric was revised to emphasize the definition, use of, and discussion of examples that apply ethics to complex situations, calling for sensitivity to family needs that go beyond following rules and guidelines.
- The instructor of the course re-worked the course syllabus and uploaded a professor-created video that served as a mandatory prerequisite to access the remainder of the online Moodle platform. Both changes primarily informed students of writing expectations of the class and scoring procedures that make the writing portions as heavily weighted as the exams in determining a final grade.
- The SOL assignment due date was moved to the weeks prior to finals, and was given greater point value, and was emphasized through emails in weeks preceding the due date as being an important grade that takes time to complete.

These changes were intended to improve the student's ability to demonstrate knowledge of the NCFR Ethical Principles and Guidelines for Family Scientists, thereby continuing to push the cycle of improvement forward. As a result of these changes, in AC 2023-2024 the target was not met.

Decision, action or recommendation.

In AC 2023-2024 the target was not met. Out of the 79 students enrolled in the course this academic year, 62 out of the 79, or 78.4% met the benchmark of 80% or better. Of the 69 students who successfully completed the course with a C or better, 62 out of the 69, or 89.8% met the 80% benchmark or better. The 10 students that failed the course must repeat to remain in the CFs program. The goal of 80% of students successfully completing this assignment with a grade of 80% or better was **not met**.

Based on the analysis of the AC 2023-2024 results, the faculty will implement the following in AC 2024-2025 to drive the cycle of improvement.

1. The rubric for the assignment will be analyzed to ensure that professional ethics are emphasized sufficiently and effectively. Additionally, "professionalism", in general, will be discussed in depth by adding varied assignments that accentuate the original SLO assignment and add to its emphasis.
2. The instructor of the course will monitor the formatting of the course syllabus to ensure continuation in the course is allowed. The professor-created video will serve as a mandatory prerequisite to access the remainder of the online Moodle platform.

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3. Students will be continually informed of writing expectations of the class and how scoring procedures make the writing portions as heavily weighted as the exams in determining a final grade.
4. The SOL assignment due date will be required weeks prior to the final. This emphasis will be communicated to students about the importance of the assignment.
5. The CFS Coordinator discussed it with her team and adjusted the benchmark of this measurement to reflect that at least 70% of students will receive a 70% or higher grade because this is traditionally the first CFS course taken by majors and the first course that introduces the skill sets required for online learning, expectations for performance and concept application.

These changes are intended to improve the student's ability to demonstrate knowledge of the NCFR Ethical Principles and Guidelines for Family Scientists, thereby continuing to push the cycle of improvement forward.

SLO 2

Course Map: CFS 3030, Individual and Family Management

Departmental Student Learning Goal	Program Student Learning Outcome
Apply discipline-specific content knowledge in professional practice.	Students will compare and contrast values, attitudes, and motivation, as it relates to personal and family management.

Measure 2.1. (Direct Assessment of Student Knowledge and Attitudes)

SLO 2 is assessed through a Work Value Inventory in CFS 3030, Individual and Family Management. In this assessment, students analyze their personal and professional values and interests.

The assessment is evaluated using a rubric. Employing NCFR content as a guide, the instructor of CFS 3030 developed the rubric and shared it with program faculty. CFS program faculty voted to approve the rubric as a key assessment. The benchmark performance is that at least 80% of the students enrolled in the course will score at least 80% on this key assessment.

Departmental Student Learning Goal	Program Student Learning Outcome
Demonstrate discipline-specific content knowledge.	Students will demonstrate knowledge of the NCFR Ethical Principles and Guidelines for Family Scientists.

Finding: Target was met.

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Analysis:

In AC 2022-2023, 58 out of 64 students (90.625%) met the expected 80% benchmark. Based on analysis of the 2022-2023 results, faculty made the following changes in AC 2023-2024 to drive the cycle of improvement. Faculty adjusted pedagogy and improved informational delivery in CFS 3030 based on individual student need. Additional resources were provided to the student as well as additional readings, for more in-depth clarification and explanation of expectations related to the course and specific assignment.

As a result of these strategies, in AC 2023 - 2024 the target was met.

Decision, action or recommendation.

In AC 2023-2024 the target was met as 69 of the 69 students enrolled, or (100%) of the students enrolled, achieved the required 80 % benchmark. Based on the analysis of data, faculty will implement the following changes in AC 2024-2025 to push forward the cycle of improvement.

- Faculty will monitor the number of students enrolled in the course and note varied majors or concentrations of each to provide responsive pedagogy and differentiated instruction accordingly.
- Faculty will monitor the rigor of the exercise to ensure that the responses of students are challenging.
- Faculty will monitor student feedback in providing resources for better student understanding of the objectives of the assignment and course.
- Faculty will modify the key assessment to expand the application of concepts associated with the activities.

These adjustments will improve the student's ability to demonstrate knowledge of the NCFR Ethical Principles and Guidelines for Family Scientists, thereby continuing to push the cycle of improvement forward.

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SLO 3

Course Map: CFS 4500, Internship in Child and Family Studies

Departmental Student Learning Goal	Program Student Learning Outcome
Model professional behaviors and characteristics.	Students will work collaboratively within a school or organization to meet the needs of children, individuals, and families, and demonstrate professionalism in interactions with their instructor, placement supervisor, clients, and coworkers.

Measure 3.1. (Indirect Assessment of Student Skills, Attitudes, and Dispositions)

SLO 3 is assessed through a dispositions-type form, the Final Supervisor Evaluation, in CFS 4500, Internship in Child and Family Studies. Students are assessed on their (1) professional interest, (2) performance, (3) professional judgement, (4) social ability, (5) temperament, (6) intellectual honesty, and (7) effectiveness.

A planned, supervised, and evaluated culminating experience, framed by well-defined learning objectives, procedures, and criteria for evaluation is mandated by NCFR. Students are expected to apply knowledge and skills from across the entire curriculum and demonstrate synthesis and integration of specialized knowledge learned.

The assessment is evaluated using a rubric. Employing NCFR content as a guide, the CFS Program Coordinator developed the rubric and shared it with program faculty. CFS program faculty voted to approve the rubric as a key assessment in the fall of 2018. The benchmark performance is that at least 90% of the students enrolled in the course will score at least 80% on this key assessment.

Finding: The target was met.

Analysis:

In AC 2022-2023 the target was met. Data revealed 55 of 56 (98.2%) met the required score necessary, therefore the target was met. Based on the analysis of AC 2022-2023. Faculty implemented the following in AC 2023-2024 to drive the cycle of improvement.

1. Faculty provided additional clarity to students through the delivery of asynchronous virtual training at the start of the semester. This training highlighted the specific requirements of the internship to foster appreciation for, and understanding of, the professional components of the course.
2. Faculty reviewed all relevant coursework with corresponding assignments, guidelines, and rubrics for adjustment, where appropriate, to promote student learning.

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3. One faculty member (the present Program Coordinator) taught both CFS 4010 (pre-requisite for CFS 4500) and assisted students with a more seamless transition and understanding of requirements of 4500.
4. Faculty implemented the use of a CFS 4500 Checklist, that promotes clarity for students in the pre-requisite of CFS 4010.
5. The instructor used documents that explain and clarify responsibilities of the student and the agency that students may use to communicate and secure approved internship sites. The instrument used by supervisors to evaluate CFS 4500 students was altered to meet a more specific range of performance that will result in a direct correlation to a letter grade. This ensured the data was more objective for analysis.

As a result of these implementations, in AC 2023-2024 the target was met. 42 of 43 (98.2%) met the target.

Decision, action or recommendation.

In AC 2023-2024 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2023-2024 results, the faculty will implement the following strategies in AC 2024-2025 to drive the cycle of improvement.

1. Faculty will provide additional clarity to students through the delivery of an asynchronous virtual training at the start of the semester. This training will highlight the specific requirements of the internship to foster appreciation for, and understanding of, the professional components of the course.
2. Faculty will review all relevant coursework with corresponding assignments, guidelines, and rubrics for adjustment, where appropriate, to promote student learning.
3. One faculty member (the present Program Coordinator) will teach both CFS 4010 (pre-requisite for CFS 4500) and will assist students with a more seamless transition and understanding of requirements of 4500.
4. Faculty will implement the use of a CFS 4500 Checklist, that promotes clarity for students in the pre-requisite of CFS 4010.
5. The instructor will use documents that explain and clarify the responsibilities of the student and the agency that students may use to communicate and secure approved internship sites.

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6. The instrument used by supervisors to evaluate CFS 4500 students will be altered to meet a more specific range of performance that will result in a direct correlation to a letter grade. This will make the data more objective for analysis.

These changes will improve the student's ability to work collaboratively within a school or organization to meet the needs of children, individuals, and families, and demonstrate professionalism in interactions with their instructor, placement supervisor, clients, and coworkers, thereby continuing to push the cycle of improvement forward.

SLO 4

Course Map: CFS 4500, Internship in Child and Family Studies

Departmental Student Learning Goal	Program Student Learning Outcome
Exhibit creative thinking that yields, engaging ideas, processes, materials, and experiences appropriate for the discipline.	Students will plan, implement, document, and assess a creative culminating project for their internship site.

Measure 4.1. (Direct Assessment of Student Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes)

SLO 4 is assessed through the On-Site Project/Final Portfolio in CFS 4500, Internship in Child and Family Studies. This is a 3-step assessment which is intended to take the student the entire semester to complete. Students are asked to (1) collaborate with their on-site supervisor to design a creative and unique project, (2) develop goals and objectives for the project, (3) document the process of the project from start to finish, and (4) assess and evaluate the success of the project.

A planned, supervised, and evaluated culminating experience, framed by well-defined learning objectives, procedures, and criteria for evaluation is mandated by NCFR. Students are expected to apply knowledge and skills from across the entire curriculum and demonstrate synthesis and integration of specialized knowledge learned.

The assessment is evaluated using a rubric. Employing NCFR content as a guide, the CFS Program Coordinator developed the rubric and shared it with program faculty. CFS program faculty voted to approve the rubric as a key assessment in the fall of 2018. The benchmark performance is that at least 90% of the students enrolled in the course will score at least 80% on this key assessment.

Finding: Target was met.

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Analysis:

In AC 2022-2023 the target was met. 55 out of 56 students (98.2%) met the expected 80% benchmark. Based on the analysis of data from AC 2022-2023 faculty implemented the following for AC 2023-2024 to drive the cycle of improvement.

1. Faculty reevaluated the requirements of the Onsite Project and incorporated an online option for this assignment.
2. Additional information was shared with students specific to the 3 parts of the assignment.
3. Faculty provided additional clarity to students regarding the expectations of this key assessment.
4. Faculty evaluated relevant coursework with corresponding assignments, guidelines, and rubrics for adjustment, where appropriate, to promote student learning.

As a result of these changes, in AC 2023-2024, the target was met. 42 out of 43 students (98.2%) met the expected 80% benchmark.

Decision, action or recommendation.

In AC 2022-2023 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 results, the faculty will implement the following in AC 2024-2025 to drive the cycle of improvement.

1. Faculty will redesign the requirements of the Onsite Project and incorporate an online option for this assignment.
2. Additional information will be shared with students specific to the 3 parts of the assignment.
3. Faculty will provide additional clarity to students regarding the expectations of this key assessment.
4. Faculty will evaluate relevant coursework with corresponding assignments, guidelines, and rubrics for adjustment, where appropriate, to promote student learning.
5. A specific and personalized supervisor evaluation will be required for each student's project that will evaluate the specifics and agency benefits of each on-site project. This evaluation will be transposed as a numerical grade for the student and will become a part of the required coursework.

These changes should improve the student's ability to plan, implement, document, and assess a creative culminating project for their internship site, thereby continuing to push the cycle of improvement forward.

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SLO 5

Course Map: CFS 4010, Perspectives in Child and Family Studies

Departmental Student Learning Goal	Program Student Learning Outcome
Make responsible decisions and problem-solve, using data to inform actions when appropriate	Students will develop ethical decision-making skills and demonstrate the ability to apply those skills.

Measure 5.1. (Direct Assessment of Student Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes)

SLO 5 is assessed through the Ethical Dilemmas Paper in the program's capstone course, CFS 4010, Perspectives in Child and Family Studies. Students are asked to (1) discuss potential ethical issues in working with children, adults, and families, (2) develop ethical decision-making skills and demonstrate the ability to apply those skills, (3) discuss the importance of professional ethics, and (4) review the ethical standards of our field's professional organizations.

The assessment is evaluated using a rubric. Employing NCFR content as a guide, the previous CFS Program Coordinator developed the rubric and shared it with program faculty. CFS program faculty voted to approve the rubric as a key assessment in the fall of 2018. The benchmark performance is that at least 85% of the students enrolled in the course will score at least 80% on this key assessment.

Finding: Target was met.

Analysis:

In AC 2023-2024 the target was met, 27/27 students (100%) earned at least 85% on the assignment. Based on the analysis of the data from the previous academic year, faculty implemented the following changes for AC 2023-2024.

1. Faculty provided additional clarity to students regarding the expectations of this key assessment.
2. As this course is delivered in an online format, faculty also developed an additional mode of communication specifically related to this assignment to increase student's knowledge and understanding of the assessment's content.
3. Additionally, one faculty member served as the instructor for CFS 4010 and CFS 4500, in order to provide a seamless transition between the two final courses of the program.

These changes assisted the students in honing ethical decision-making skills, as well as the ability to apply skills, culminating in increased success during the internship semester resulting in target attainment. As a result of these changes, in AC 2023-2024 the target was met. 27 of the 27 students (100%) met the target.

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Decision, action or recommendation.

In AC 2023-2024 the target was met.

Based on the analysis of AC 2023-2024 data, faculty will implement the following changes in AC 2024-2025 to drive the cycle of improvement:

1. Faculty will provide additional clarity to students regarding the expectations of this key assessment.
2. Faculty will further additional modes of online communication specifically related to this assignment to increase student's knowledge and understanding of the assessment's content.

These changes will enable the students to develop their ethical decision-making skills, as well as the ability to apply skills, culminating in increased success during the internship semester.

Comprehensive Summary of Key Evidence of Seeking Improvement Based on Analysis of Results. The following reflects all the changes implemented to drive the constant process of seeking improvement in AC 2023-2024. These changes were based on the knowledge gained through the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 results.

- SLO 1: Faculty improved the informational delivery in CFS 1070. Faculty ensured students were provided additional clarity regarding this key assessment.
- SLO 2: Faculty adjusted pedagogy and informational delivery in CFS 3030.
- SLO 3: Faculty developed and delivered an internship handbook for CFS 4500, which delineated the requirements necessary for success in the course. The faculty also completed virtual meetings with students regarding their plans for their onsite projects.
- SLO 4: Faculty developed and delivered a presentation to streamline the process of planning, implementing, documenting, and assessing the internship onsite project.
- SLO 5: Faculty improved informational delivery of the content regarding the Ethical Dilemmas Paper in CFS 4010. Faculty developed specific guidelines and a rubric for this key assessment.

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Plan of Action Moving Forward.

Based on results of data from AC 2023 – 2024, faculty will make the following changes in AC 2024 – 2025:

Faculty will review all relevant coursework with corresponding assignments, guidelines, and rubrics for adjustment, where appropriate, to promote student learning and program improvement. Faculty will conduct this instructional design review in addition to the following actions:

- SLO 1: Faculty will provide professional development, and analysis to enhance the learning opportunities for students in the course. Faculty will provide additional clarity to students regarding the expectations of this key assessment. The CFS Coordinator and her team will and adjusted the benchmark of this measurement to reflect that at least 70% of students will receive a 70% or higher grade because this is traditionally the first CFS course taken by majors and the first course that introduces the skill sets required for online learning, expectations for performance and concept application.
- SLO 2: Faculty will monitor the number of students enrolled in the course and note varied majors or concentrations of each to provide responsive pedagogy and differentiated instruction accordingly. Faculty will modify the key assessment to expand the application of concepts associated with the activities.
- SLO 3: Faculty will utilize created documents that explain and clarify responsibilities of the student and the agency that students may use to communicate and secure approved internship sites.
- SLO 4: Faculty will redesign the requirements of the Onsite Project incorporating an additional supervisory evaluation. Additional information will be shared with students specific to the parts of the assignment. Faculty will provide additional clarity to students. regarding the expectations of this key assessment.
- SLO 5: Faculty will provide additional clarity to students regarding the expectations of this key assessment.