

DATE: January 28, 2016**SUBJECT:** East Tennessee State University, Master of Science – Sport Science and Coach Education**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The proposed Master of Science (MS) degree in Sport Science and Coach Education program will enhance the current educational programs and emphasis on sports at East Tennessee State University. The ETSU emphasis on sport is evidence by a strong intercollegiate athletics program, an Olympic Training site for five sports, and five academic programs in physical education and sport administration.

This proposal takes an existing concentration within the Kinesiology and Sport Studies Master of Arts program and uses it as foundation to establish a new degree for better recognition of disciplinary study for prospective students and on transcripts for clarity in the workplace. The proposed MS degree will consist of two concentrations, one taught on campus (Applied Sport Science) and the other offered completely online (Strength and Conditioning).

The new degree, Sport Science and Coach Education, will integrate sport skills, exercises and techniques used in training and sport tactics into comprehensive training processes. The proposed degree will be the only one in the state and the nation providing students with a unique opportunity in the Strength and Conditioning concentration. Students will be taught by many of the Exercise and Sport Science Department faculty that are internationally known practitioners in their respective fields.

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Fall 2016

1.1.20A MISSION: The proposed Sport Science and Coach Education MS program supports ETSU mission of “providing outstanding programs of study, enhanced access to education, and distinctive educational and research opportunities to attract students from around the region and the world.” The program will further the mission by expanding opportunities to develop community and international partnerships. Students will have the opportunity to gain domestic and international experiences by working with local high school sports programs and sports organizations in Southeast Asia. The proposed program will work closely with international partnerships established from the ETSU’s Center of Excellence for Sport Science and Coach Education.

1.1.20B CURRICULUM: The degree program will require completion of 33 credit hours for the thesis option and 36 credits for the non-thesis option. The curriculum components consist of a 15-hour major field core, 12 hours in concentration, 3-6 hours in electives and 3-hour internship (non-thesis option) or thesis option. Instruction for the proposed MS program will be delivered in two methods depending on the program concentration. The Applied Sport Science concentration will consist of traditional classroom and lab delivery methods. The Strength and Conditioning concentration will have a 100 percent online delivery method.

1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS: Applicants must meet admission requirements of the School of Graduate Studies and the program. Program admission requires the following: bachelor’s degree in physical education, exercise science or closely related field, a minimum 3.0 overall undergraduate GPA, and satisfactory GRE test scores. Additionally, students must submit a current resume, three letters of recommendation, and an essay outlining career expectations and goals.

Projected Program Enrollment and Productivity

The assumptions for productivity are based on full-time students completing the program in two years while part-time students will complete the program in three years. Full-time students are projected to enroll in nine credits per semester and part-time students will enroll in six credits.

| Year | Full-Time Enrollment | Part-Time Enrollment | Total Headcount | Graduates |
|------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 2016 | 17 | 4 | 21 | -- |
| 2017 | 32 | 7 | 39 | 14 |
| 2018 | 40 | 9 | 49 | 18 |
| 2019 | 40 | 9 | 49 | 21 |
| 2020 | 40 | 9 | 49 | 21 |

1.1.20D FACULTY: The proposed program will be supported by the seven graduate faculty members in the Department of Exercise and Sport Science. Two additional faculty will be needed for the program and a faculty member will be added in each of the first two years of program implementation. Two graduate assistants are proposed and will assist faculty with organization and maintenance of online classes.

1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES: The existing library including electronic and database resources are sufficient to support the proposed MS degree. The Sherrod Library at ETSU has a full-time Distance Education Librarian dedicated to helping online students with their research and ensuring students have the tools they need to succeed.

1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION: The proposed Sport Science and Coach Education MS program will be offered through the Claudius G. Clemmer College of

Education, Department of Exercise and Sport Science. A faculty member will receive course reassignment to serve as the graduate program coordinator for the proposed Sport Science and Coach Educations MS program.

1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES: Students will have access to a wide range of support resources, including advising and mentoring support from faculty. The School of Graduate Studies provides an online Graduate Student Liaison to provide targeted support for graduate students enrolled in online programs.

1.1.20H FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT: No additional facilities or equipment are needed for the proposed program.

1.1.20I NEED AND DEMAND: The establishment of the proposed Sport Science and Coach Education program provides ETSU with a unique and timely opportunity to develop a pool of well-trained coaches. Currently, the National Collegiate Athletic Association is addressing ways of increasing competencies of strength and conditioning coaches through education and certification due to safety issues related to athlete health and well-being. This proposed MS degree program aims to address these deficiencies.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment projections for coaches and other sport professionals are projected to increase by 15 percent from 2012 to 2022. This increase results in an estimated 36,000 positions added to the profession with over 243,000 individuals currently employed in various positions.

1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION: The proposed Sport Science and Coach Education MS program with the concentrations of Applied Sport Science and Strength and Conditioning will be a unique program offering. There are other related sport, fitness and exercise Master's programs offered at Middle Tennessee State University, University of Memphis, UT Chattanooga and UT Knoxville.

The proposed program at East Tennessee State University is different in curricular focus and course delivery method. The Strength and Conditioning concentration is a unique blend of both curricular and delivery method. The other online programs with a similar curriculum content are offered at Edith Cowan University in Perth, Australia and St. Mary's University in London, England.

1.1.20K COOPERATING INSTITUTIONS: N/A

1.120L DIVERSITY AND ACCESS: East Tennessee State University aspires to be an institution that celebrates diversity by welcoming all students, faculty and staff as respected and valued participants in the University's educational mission. The proposed MS program has developed an extensive recruitment plan that will also focus on traditionally underrepresented groups.

1.1.20M ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION: The Sport Science and Coach Education program will be evaluated on student success indicators such as their capstone performance, exit interviews and alumni surveys. Additionally, the program will be evaluated externally every seven years in accordance with the Quality Assurance Funding program. Assessment results from both external and internal evaluations will be used for program improvements.

1.1.200 EXTERNAL JUDGMENT: External review of the proposed program was conducted during an institution site visit on April 12-13, 2015. Dr. Michael Bember, Professor and Chair, C.B. Hudson Presidential Professor in the Department of Health and Exercise Science at the University of Oklahoma, served as the external reviewer. He stated that the proposed program was a “logical fit between the existing undergraduate and doctoral programs in the department.” Dr. Bember highlighted the following strengths of the proposed program:

- student-centered faculty who have a strong commitment to providing quality educational and mentoring experiences for undergraduate and graduate students;
- faculty with the expertise to mentor students in a new program that looks to fill a void between academics and the coaching profession; and
- facilities (Mini-Dome, Center for Excellence, Olympic Training Center) and opportunities (on campus athletic programs, high school athletic programs, community based athletic programs, internship sites) that will help ensure the necessary “hands-on” experiences required by the proposed program.

1.1.20P COST/BENEFIT: The proposed Master’s program will be funded through additional tuition revenues generated by the program and no institutional reallocation of funds is necessary for program implementation.

1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING: An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first five years following program approval. The review will be based on benchmarks established in the approved proposal. At the end of this period, the campus, governing board and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. The benchmarks include, but are not limited to, enrollment and graduation, program cost, progress toward accreditation and other metrics set by the institution and agreed upon by governing board and Commission staff. If benchmarks are not met during the monitoring period, the Commission may recommend that the governing board terminate the program. If additional time is needed and requested by the governing board, the Commission may choose to extend the monitoring period.