

Blueprint for Quality Enhancement
Credit Programs - 2006-2007

ACADEMIC GOALS, INITIATIVES AND ACTION PLANS
CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT PROGRAMS
Updated Spring 2007

I. Vision, Mission and Goals

A. Executive Summary

Vision statement: The unit will lead the University to becoming the higher education institution of choice for adults in the Midlands area and beyond who for whatever reason want to pursue undergraduate study.

Ground has been lost in recent years as higher admission standards for freshmen have (inadvertently) resulted in policies and practices that have negatively impacted recruitment and admission of older students. Implementation of the Adult Student Advancement Program (ASAP) is beginning to erase much of this negative impact and move us again in a positive direction. Internal services to adult students have remained strong and continue to strengthen. Evening course offerings, attractive to adult students, are increasing after a number of years of decline.

Mission statement: The unit provides undergraduate course offerings for students who need flexibility in scheduling; provides assistance, advisement, and advocacy for older students; and manages nontraditional degrees.

Older students who have job, family, or other commitments are likely to need classes offered outside the normal weekday, daytime schedule. As the lives of traditional-aged students become more nontraditional (resulting primarily from employment), their need for flexible scheduling is increasing. The Evening and Weekend Programs address the needs of these students. The Fort Jackson Program meets the needs of active duty students and on a space-available basis serves civilians as well.

The AA and AS degrees offered to active duty military students, the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, and the future Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies for regional campuses students offer alternatives to traditional discipline-based degrees.

Availability of courses, academic advisement and assistance, and advocacy for older students results in making the institution both attractive and accessible to these students. Through service to a limited number of students we are achieving the mission, but we have the capacity to serve a much larger adult and nontraditional population. The challenge is to enhance the university's

diversity through serving a larger number of capable adult students at the same time the University's academic reputation grows.

Goal 1. Increase the undergraduate population age 25 and older

Goal 2. Enhance student services provided by unit

Goal 3. Enhance academic offerings provided by unit

Goal 4. Provide academic management for nontraditional degrees