

Provost's Comprehensive Program Review Report

Institution: Middle Georgia State University

Academic Program Name: A.S. in Financial Technology

CIP Code: 307104

College or School: School of Computing

Department: Information Technology

Date of Last Internal Review: N/A first CPR

Outcome of Previous Program Review (brief narrative statement): N/A

Current Date: 5/18/2022

Provost Response: Academic Affairs acknowledges the documented value of the AS in Financial Technology as part of larger USG initiatives responding to economic trends and opportunities in the FINTECH space. The complementary nature of the program is an integral part of a supportive AS pathway for BS programs, yet the program has historically produced low enrollment and graduation. **Therefore, the program will undergo Comprehensive Program Review in 3 years.**

Program Quality and Productivity Improvement Plan: Following a review of the Chairs Report, the IERB comments, and the Deans report, the Office of the Provost concurs with the findings and supports the documented plan of action.

- Market the AS in FinTech as a foundation pathway to the BS in Information Technology.
- Expand participation in the eCampus arrangement and articulation agreement
- Market (partner) with other institutions to collaborate the degree for a pathway into the BSIT degree.
- Demonstrate (market) job opportunities to graduates.

Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.

Program MEETS Institution's Criteria

Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.

Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.

Program PARTIALLY MEETS Institution's Criteria and will be re-evaluated in _____.

X Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria

X Program will be placed on a monitoring status and will be re-evaluated in FY25.

Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.

Program will be deactivated.

Program will be voluntarily terminated.

Other (identify/add text):

Provost or VPAA Signature:



Date:

6/1/2022

Comprehensive Program Review Report

Academic Program Name: A.S. in Financial Technology

College or School: School of Computing

Department: Information Technology

Date of Last Internal Review: 1/4/2022

Outcome of Previous Program Review (brief narrative statement, if applicable):

Current Date: 4/7/220

Executive Summary: *Although the program is not producing sufficient enrollment/graduates, other institutions are interested in sharing/collaborating with the Associate's program for eCampus. MGA and Georgia Highlands, for example, will be signing an articulation agreement to allow their students to complete the Associate's Fintech program at Georgia Highlands to seamlessly transfer to MGA's BSIT program. The agreement of the USG and MGA leadership will enable MGA to continue to support the Fintech effort via our concentration in the BSIT program.*

Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.

Program MEETS Institution's Criteria

Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.

Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.

Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria

Program will be placed on a monitoring status.

Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.

Program will be deactivated.

Program will be voluntarily terminated.

Other (identify/add text):

Academic Dean Signature: Alex Koohang Digitally signed by Alex Koohang
Date: 2022.04.07 08:54:24 -0400

Dean of Graduate Studies Signature (when applicable):

Date:

IERB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Date Reviewed: 3/4/22

Program Reviewed: A.S. in Financial Technology

Contextual Notes: Summarize any demographic or environmental factors described in the introduction that might significantly impact assessment of the program

FinTech is a new program undergoing its first CPR. Due to some faculty hesitation in teaching low enrollment courses, the department is considering an articulation agreement that would house the A.S. degree at Georgia Highlands College while MGA focuses on the B.S. IT degree with a concentration in financial technology.

Area of Focus	Exemplary Area	Satisfactory Area	Area of Concern	No Evidence	Notes
Enrollment	<i>This program has significantly positive enrollment trends and robust credit hour production</i>	<i>This program has stable or moderately positive enrollment trends and healthy credit hour production</i>	<i>This program has negative enrollment trends and weak credit hour production</i>		The positive enrollment growth displayed in the chart does not match the tone of the narrative; apparently, very few students are taking these classes.
Graduation Trends USG benchmark: Bachelor's Degrees: 10 graduates/year Graduate, Associate's or Certificates: 5 graduates/year	<i>Three year rolling average greatly exceeds USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred</i>	<i>Three year rolling average meets or exceeds USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred</i>	<i>Three year rolling average does not meet USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred; the program is "low performing" by USG definition</i>		Positive trends in the graduation rate but low graduation numbers.

IERB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Programs falling under these benchmarks are designated as "low performing"					
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Program Strengths of Note: The program was created in response to industry feedback. Positive growth is occurring in both the areas of enrollment and graduation rates, particularly with online courses. There is evidence of adaptability as the program seeks other avenues, like partnerships with other institutions, to help students graduate and move into the B.S. in Information Technology at MGA.

Areas of Concern: Low graduation numbers (in spite of the positive graduation trend) are a concern. The narrative tone suggests that department and/or school administrators and faculty are not happy with the program's low enrollment and see little chance to increase these rates at MGA.

Other Comments: The narrative does a great job explaining how the program design aligns with the institutional mission and how it encourages students to develop the MGA core values.



Comprehensive Program Review

FY 2021 – 2022

Institution: Middle Georgia State University

Academic Program: A.S. in Financial Technology

School: School of Computing

Department: Information Technology

CIP Code: 307104

Date of Last Internal Review: 1st CPR

Faculty Completing Report: Neil Rigole

Current Date: 1/4/2022

5 Year Enrollment by Campus and Graduation Trends

Enrollment

Campus	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	5 YR Growth	Fall 2017 compared to Fall 2021 only
Macon	1	1	1				
Cochran			1	1			
Warner Robins				1			
Dublin							
Eastman							
Online	3	7	10	10	9	31.61%	200
Off Campus							
Total	4	8	12	12	9	22.47%	125%

Graduates

- For data consistency, the fiscal year is in which the degree was awarded. For examples, fiscal year 2019 includes degrees conferred in Summer 2018, Fall 2018, and Spring 2019.

FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	4 YR Growth	FY18 compared to FY21 only
0	2	2	5	3	14.47%	50%

Program Narrative

To meet the demands of Georgia's growing Financial Transactions industry, Middle Georgia State has created the AS in Financial Technology. The program's curriculum has been developed with direct input from industry leaders, ensuring that graduates of this degree are well equipped with the skills needed to work in this high-demand career field.

Financial technology, also known as FinTech, is an economic industry composed of companies that use technology to make financial services more efficient. The AS degree program will expose students to the IT domains that make up the FinTech industry, including industry trends, disruptive technologies, big data, analytics, applications development, entrepreneurship, and cybersecurity. The AS in Financial Technology is offered entirely online through a combination of eCampus online courses.

The mission of the Department of IT supports and aligns with the MGA vision to “transform individuals and their communities through extraordinary higher learning” by creating graduates that are able to thrive in desirable professional positions across nearly all industries. The department adheres to MGA core values of Stewardship, Engagement, Adaptability, and Learning. Students learn the value of time, money, and effort through hands-on work and research across courses. Students learn to be flexible with an ever-changing landscape of technology. Engagement is promoted throughout the department with in-class interactions, extra-curricular activities, community involvement, and access to professional seminars and conferences.

The FinTech programs are available online through eCampus, in partnership with the Georgia FinTech Academy. The 2000 level courses are currently taught by faculty at Middle Georgia State University.

As can be seen in the table, the program began in Fall 2017 with FOUR students. Current Fall 2021 enrollment is at NINE students, and there have been a total of only twelve graduates. Due to low enrollment numbers in the individual courses, it is becoming increasingly difficult to offer the courses when there are only one or two students in a class. While faculty assigned to teach the class can “bank” these students and receive compensation later (when they have met the

threshold of 12 students in their “bank”), this may not happen until over a year after the course was taught and faculty are beginning to not want to take on the additional responsibility of teaching a class with only a couple of students enrolled and no immediate compensation for their efforts.

While another USG institution (Georgia Highlands College) has recently joined the Fintech AS collaborative, with two other USG colleges showing interest in joining (Atlanta Metro and East Georgia College), at this point MGA has been the only institution who has had faculty teach and students enrolled in the Fintech AS program. While the Department of I.T. has also added a Fintech concentration to our BSIT degree program, there have been no students at this point who have declared this area as a concentration.

Plan for Action

Georgia Highlands College is highly interested in adopting and overseeing the Associate’s program for eCampus at their institution, with MGA and Georgia Highlands signing an articulation agreement to allow their students completing the Associate’s Fintech program at Georgia Highlands to seamlessly transfer to MGA’s BSIT program. With the agreement of the USG and MGA leadership, this will enable MGA to continue to support the Fintech effort via our concentration in the BSIT program, and enable our department to focus more efforts on its other new and existing programs (i.e. DScIT, MSIT, BSIT).

****The narrative should be as direct as possible and no longer than three pages.***

MEMORANDUM

February 11, 2022

To: Dr. Laura Thomason, Credentialing Officer; Dr. David Jenks, Provost; Mrs. Jennifer Jones, Operations Manager, Office of the Provost; Mr. Christopher Tsavatewa, Director of Institutional Effectiveness; Dr. Kevin Cantwell, Special Assistant to the President and IAL, SACSCOC

CC: Pam Booker, Executive Director, Human Resources

From: Dr. Neil Rigole

Re: Re-Credentialing of faculty members CPR Year 2021-2022 School Computing, Department of Information Technology

Academic Year 2021-2022 Roster

Instructor Last, First Name	MGA ID (983)	Full-Time or Part-Time
Rigole, Neil		Full-Time
Monk, Barry J		Full-Time
Eanes, Wanda M		Part-Time
Ashford, Tina K.		Full-Time
Marshall, Jeff A		Part-Time
Floyd, Kevin S		Full-Time
Lingelbach, Kembley K		Full-Time
Keaton, Chauncey		Part-Time
Stines, Alan A		Full-Time
Colon, Jr., Pedro Juan		Full-Time
Howell, Dorothy J.		Full-Time
Talmage, Caleb J		Part-Time
Koohang, Alex		Full-Time
Sieg, Nathan		Part-Time
Lamothe, Rudy		Part-Time
Beasley, Shannon W		Full-Time
Miner, Christine D		Part-Time
Wheeler, Christy L		Part-Time
Sullivan, Patrick J		Part-Time
Aleman, Jimmy J		Part-Time
Young, Casey G		Part-Time
Kempton, Lana J		Part-Time
Kwak, Myungjae		Full-Time
McMillion, Simone K		Part-Time
Dunnigan, Rothie L		Part-Time
Edge, Stephanie D		Part-Time
Lanier, Viktoriya V		Part-Time
Upperman, Hannah		Full-Time
Munoz, Angela C		Part-Time
Girard, John P		Full-Time
Geiger, Holly R		Full-Time
Borkovich, Debra J		Part-Time
Hu, Shannon		Full-Time
Brown, Shonda D		Part-Time

Spangler, Scott C	Full-Time
Lockwood, Wayne E	Full-Time
Jenkins, Jonathan	Full-Time
Knighton, Christopher Shane	Part-Time
Nilsen, Richard	Part-Time
Sandoval, Vicky	Full-Time
Clarke, Karla	Part-Time
Tisdale, Susan	Part-Time
Fisher, Susan	Part-Time
Paullet, Karen	Part-Time
Kim, Joobum	Full-Time
Sisson, Richard	Part-Time
Mercer, Valerie A	Full-Time
Hicks, Timothy A	Part-Time
Terrell, Steven R	Part-Time
Jones, William S	Full-Time
Seol, Jongho	Full-Time
Janchenko, Gary	Part-Time

Recognizing that qualified, effective faculty members are essential to the execution of Middle Georgia State University's mission and to ensure the quality and integrity of its academic program, each academic program will undergo faculty re-credentialing and review during their calendared comprehensive program review year.

As of AY22, the above faculty members in the Department of NAME, School of NAME, hold adequate credentials and/or qualifications for meeting program goals and objectives and the student learning outcomes of the courses assigned.


This memo serves as an attestation that department leadership has:

1. Reviewed MGA's Faculty Handbook and Appendix 1: Faculty Credentialing Guidelines (Approved and Updated 4/2/21)
2. Reviewed MGA's historical faculty rosters (Fall 2019 to Spring 2022)
3. Reviewed each individual faculty member's file
4. Updated the file as appropriate to reflect any changes
5. Secured or updated any documents needed to authenticate credentials and/or qualifications (e.g., transcripts, licensure certificates, etc.)
6. Discussed with the faculty member any changes in their course credentialing status
7. Reviewed faculty credentialing records and changes with the institution's Faculty Credentialing Officer as needed

In signing this memo, the department and school leadership attest that all rostered faculty referenced above hold appropriate credentials and/or qualifications that are justified and documented, and submit them for review to MGA's Faculty Credentialing Officer.

Note: while faculty re-credentialing occurs in conjunction with the CPR cycle (3 years for new programs and 5 years for existing programs), department leadership are required to maintain

documentation of appropriate credentials and/or qualifications annually as captured by the faculty roster, to account for changes in course assignment or new qualifications secured between CPR cycles.

Department Chair: 

Date: 4/18/2022

Alex Koohang Digitally signed by Alex Koohang
Date: 2022.04.18 10:19:17 -0400

Dean: _____

Date: _____

In signing this memo, Faculty Credentialing Officer affirms that the above-referenced faculty hold appropriate credentials and/or qualifications and that those credentials are justified and documented per MGA policy and procedure. A copy of this memo shall be included in the file of each referenced faculty member.

Faculty Credentialing Officer: 

Date: 04/20/2022

1. Note: Appendix 1: Department of Information Technology Faculty Roster (Fall 2019 to Spring 2022)