

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

PROGRAM/CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

DIRECTIONS:

- Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1 - 4 for **each** proposed action. Keep this form to one page in length.
- Early consultation with the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs is strongly recommended if there are questions or concerns, particularly with new programs.
- Please submit the signed form to Claudia Rector, Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.
- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

DATE SUBMITTED 10/16/07

PCC LOG NO. 07028
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COLLEGE/SCHOOL School of Public Health

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM Family Science

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD _____ DELETE _____ CHANGE X

DESCRIPTION (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide **old** and **new** sample programs for curriculum changes.)

Change the name of the Ph.D. program in Family Studies to the Ph.D. in Family Science.

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.)

The proposed name change more accurately reflects the nature of the program and is consistent with the nomenclature of other top academic departments, major disciplinary associations, and federal government programs in family science, as well as the new name of our department. There are no costs associated with the name change.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date

1. Department Committee Chair Leigh Leslie Leigh A. Leslie 10/19/07
2. Department Chair Sally A. Kobhasky Sally G. Kobhasky 10/19/07
3. College/School PCC Chair Leigh Leslie Leigh Leslie 10/31/07
4. Dean Vicki S. Anderson 31 Oct 2007
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required) [Signature] 3/6/08
6. Chair, Senate PCC Phyllis Peres 3/10/08 for Carmen Baedrop
7. Chair of Senate [Signature]
8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost Phyllis Peres 6/24/08

Name Change to Ph.D. in Family Science

The Department of Family Studies (FMST) was renamed the Department of Family Science (FMSC) in Spring 2007. The new name, Family Science, reflects the Department's emphasis on scientific research aimed at helping families improve their health, financial security, and quality of life. With the transformation of the College of Health and Human Performance to a School of Public Health, it is also important to emphasize the centrality of scientific research to our discipline.

Our Department currently offers a very successful Ph.D. program in Family Science, recognized nationally for its "Preparing Future Faculty Program." In FY 2007, the Department had 9 Ph.D. graduates. Four secured tenure track positions (e.g., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; University of Maryland at Baltimore; Miami University of Ohio), and others accepted high-level family policy positions in government and non-profit organizations.

We are now requesting to change the name of the Ph.D. in Family Studies to the Ph.D. in Family Science. There are three major reasons for this request. First, the proposed name change is consistent with current directions within our discipline to focus on *family science* in the nomenclature of academic departments, major disciplinary associations, and federal government programs in family science. Almost all similar departments in other institutions, particularly Land Grant institutions with strong programs, offer degrees in *Family Science*. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* also lists faculty positions within the family discipline under the category of "family sciences." We are now offering a second Ph.D. program in Maternal and Child Health and the name, family science, more closely resembles the names of departments in Schools of Public Health that offer this degree (e.g., Department of Population and Family Health Sciences).

Second, the proposed change clarifies the program's academic focus on scientific research, evaluation, and evidence-based practice aimed at improving family well-being. Third, renaming the graduate program will make the Ph.D. degree consistent with the name of our department.

There will be no costs associated with this name change.