

AAFCS Certifications for FACS Human Services Cluster

(Across-The-Board = Personal & Family Finance, open to additional course as assessments become available.)

Name and Description of Project:

The American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) national organization is pleased to announce the Pre-Professional Assessment and Certification (Pre-PAC) program, creating the premier family and consumer sciences pre-professional assessment and certification system in the nation. Pre-PAC utilizes the considerable grassroots network of AAFCS members, representing a broad range of business, industry, and education practice settings in collaboration with other stakeholders to develop and administer quality competency assessments and industry-recognized certifications for pre-professionals in family and consumer sciences careers. In addition to drawing heavily on business and industry input, Pre-PAC utilizes information from the National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education and from the National Career Clusters initiative.

The Pre-PAC program will initially develop pre-professional assessments begin with Personal and Family Finance available in the spring of 2009. Eleven general career areas are currently targeted for development by early 2010 including Early Childhood Education, Broad Field Family and Consumer Sciences, Education Careers, Nutrition, Interior Design, Fashion, Textiles and Apparel, Culinary Arts, Family Services, Housing, and Food Science. Subsequently, additional development will occur based on need and feasibility.

Major Activities:

Students will meet the eligibility requirements and complete competency requirements set by AAFCS to obtain the correlating certifications.

Performance Indicator:

Skill Attainment with certification

Measurement:

The success of this project will be measured by the number of students who successfully earn Certification.

Professional Development:

Teachers will attend professional development provided by DWE to implement this project.

Instructional Materials/Supplies:

Possible with justification and prior approval by FACS Program Manager

Equipment:

Possible with justification and prior approval by FACS Program Manager

AAFCS Announces Pre-Professional Assessment and Certification (Pre-PAC) Program

The American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) national organization has a proud 99-year history of providing support and leadership for family and consumer sciences professionals. AAFCS is proud to announce the Pre-Professional Assessment and Certification (Pre-PAC) program creating the premier family and consumer sciences pre-professional assessment and certification system in the nation. Pre-PAC utilizes the considerable grass roots network of AAFCS members representing a broad range of business, industry, and education practice settings in collaboration with other stakeholders to develop and administer quality competency assessments and industry-recognized certifications for pre-professionals in family and consumer sciences careers. In addition to drawing heavily on business and industry input, Pre-PAC utilizes information from the National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education and from the National Career Clusters initiative.

AAFCS has a well-established Credentialing Center that includes certification of professionals as Certified in Family and Consumer Sciences (CFCS). With the growing emphasis on assessment and accountability in secondary and postsecondary education, including requirements for Perkins funding for Career and Technical Education, AAFCS believes that it important to move forward by adding to the association's products and services a portfolio of standards-based assessments and industry-recognized certifications to support pre-professional level family and consumer sciences career areas and programs of study.

Assessment/Credential Development Process and Responsibilities

In creating the Pre-PAC program, AAFCS assumes the major responsibility for providing staff, infrastructure, and other resources supporting the development of competency assessments and corresponding industry-recognized certifications representative of a broad range of pre-professional level family and consumer sciences careers. AAFCS recognizes that program effectiveness depends heavily upon the involvement, contributions, and assistance of a broad range of stakeholders with an interest in assuring that family and consumer sciences education programs are effectively preparing students with the knowledge and skills necessary for demanding career opportunities, therefore providing a workforce to meet the needs of business and industry in the demanding U.S. economy. These stakeholders include representatives of business/industry providing career opportunities for those trained in family and consumer sciences programs of study; state leadership for secondary family and consumer sciences education, career and technical education, and higher education programs; content specialists; and others responsible for the improvement and accountability of training programs.

Product Portfolio and Development Schedule

The Pre-PAC program will initially develop pre-professional assessments and industry-recognized certifications for those areas of family and consumer sciences where there are current voids. Eleven general career areas are currently targeted for development by early 2010. Subsequently, additional development will occur based on need and feasibility.

Pre-PAC product development will progress according to the following schedule. All products will be launched and available for use during the semester following piloting.

- Spring, 2008 - Fall, 2008.....Develop/pilot first assessment/certification
 1. Personal and Family Finance
- Summer, 2008 – Winter, 2009.....Develop/pilot assessments/certifications 2 & 3
 2. Early Childhood Education
 3. Broad Field Family and Consumer Sciences
- Fall, 2008 – Winter, 2009.....Develop/pilot assessments/certifications 4, 5, & 6
 4. Education Careers
 5. Nutrition
 6. Interior Design
- Winter, 2009 – Spring, 2009.....Develop/pilot assessments/certifications 7, 8, & 9
 7. Fashion, Textiles and Apparel
 8. Culinary Arts
 9. Family Services
- Fall, 2009 – Spring, 2010.....Develop/pilot assessments/certifications 10 & 11
 10. Housing
 11. Food Science



American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Announces Development of National Financial Literacy Competency Assessment

Consistent with the swelling national emphasis on financial literacy as essential for all citizens, the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) announces the development of a national standards-based competency assessment measuring knowledge and skills in the area of personal and family finance. The assessment is based on the 12th grade level *National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education* developed by the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy and is consistent with the National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education.

While developed for targeted use in secondary family and consumer sciences programs teaching personal and family finance, the assessment has application in a broad range of education, community development, staff development, and human resource settings. Adhering to gold standards for effective testing, the computer-based assessment provides a mechanism for competency measurement, program accountability, and program improvement. Successful testing will qualify individuals for recognition and documentation through a corresponding personal and family finance pre-professional certification.

Developed by National Financial Services and Education Leaders

AAFCS has engaged the assistance of a broad range of esteemed personal and family finance practitioners and educators from across the nation to assist in assessment development. Recognizing the value of a solid assessment tool in assuring that programs are effectively preparing individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary for successful management of their personal and family finances, the following stakeholders participated on the test development panel:

- Todd Christensen, Debt Reduction Services, Boise, ID
- John Meeks, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Raleigh, NC
- Mary Ann Campbell, Money Magic, Little Rock, AR
- Missy Tysinger, Wachovia Corporation, Charlotte, NC
- Jason Alderman, VISA U.S.A., San Francisco, CA
- William Cheeks, Jump\$tart Coalition, Powder Springs, GA
- Jeanne Hogarth, Federal Reserve Board, Washington, DC
- Nichole Chinadle, Family Economics & Financial Education (FEFE), Tucson, AZ
- Pamela Bennett, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR
- Faye Griffiths-Smith, Cooperative Extension System, North Haven, CT
- Anna Goff, Farmington School District, Farmington, AR
- Kathryn Cox, Wake County Schools, Raleigh, NC

Assessment Launch and Further Information

The personal and family finance assessment and certification is part of a portfolio of pre-professional level assessment and industry-recognized certification products currently under development by AAFCS and will be available for use during the late fall of 2008. For further information please contact: Gay Nell McGinnis; Division Director of Credentialing, Professional Development and Public Policy; 703-706-4600; gmcginnis@aafcs.org; www.aafcs.org

The American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) national organization has a proud 99-year history of providing support and leadership for family and consumer sciences professionals. AAFCS has a well-established credentialing program that includes accreditation of university programs, professional level assessments, and certification of professionals as Certified in Family and Consumer Sciences (CFCS). AAFCS is committed to utilizing its resources and considerable grass roots network of members and other stakeholders to launch the new program with pre-professional assessments and certifications.

THE FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES SEAL OF EXCELLENCE
INSTITUTIONAL
CREDENTIALING:
ACCREDITATION
of Family and Consumer
Sciences University
Programs

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INDIVIDUAL
CREDENTIALING:
CERTIFICATION
of Family and Consumer
Sciences Professionals

THE FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES SEAL OF ACHIEVEMENT
ASSESSMENT
of Family and Consumer
Sciences Professional
Competencies

THE FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES SEAL OF RECOGNITION
INDIVIDUAL
CREDENTIALING:
CERTIFICATION
of Pre-Professionals in
Family and Consumer
Sciences

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Consumer Sciences
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