



Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Analysis

December 29, 2023

Dr. Kevin Sightler
Director of Substantive Change
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Sightler,

Please accept this request for approval for a new Master of Education in STEM Education beginning August 2024 at Coastal Carolina University (CCU). This new program is pending program approval from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (SCCHE). Approval is anticipated to be received on June 6, 2024.

The Master of Education in STEM Education is a distance education program primarily designed to serve teachers in the university's regional partner school districts within these counties: Horry, Georgetown, Marion, Florence, and Williamsburg. Approximately 85% of current teacher education graduate students are employed in these partner school districts. This program also has the potential to appeal statewide. Teachers across the state may find the proposed program appealing to advance classroom performance, to qualify for higher (M+30) pay bands, and to pursue eligibility for additional teaching licensure credentials through distance education. Three of the University's partner districts have expressed interest in having their teachers earn the STEAM and Computer Science Education credentials; these include Horry, Georgetown, and Marion Counties. This new graduate degree program would address the needs identified by the partnering counties.

Enclosed are the substantive change cover sheet and prospectus.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need clarification.

Sincerely,

Holly J. Legg
Institutional Accreditation Liaison
Director