

Provost's Comprehensive Program Review Report

Institution: Middle Georgia State University

Academic Program Name: Certificate in Financial Technology

CIP Code: 307104

College or School: School of Computing

Department: Information Technology

Date of Last Internal Review: 1st review, certificate started in Spring 2017

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

Current Date: 6/10/2021

Provost Response: Academic Affairs acknowledges the documented value of the Certificate in Financial Technology. Even though this certificate is online and does not add any additional resources to run the certificate, it may be in the best interest to reevaluate the academic arrangement agreement and recruitment efforts around the certificate. This would allow the department to also focus its efforts into building the A.S. in Financial Technology. The certificate has had no graduates since it started and only 1 student currently enrolled. If the market forces underpinning the arrangement are as strong as suggested then as referenced by the academic leadership this program should undergo significant review for viability in 3 years.

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

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 _____.

✖ Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria

✖ Program will be placed on a monitoring status to be re-evaluated in FY24.

Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.

Program will be deactivated.

Program will be voluntarily terminated.

Other (identify/add text):

Provost or VPAA Signature:



Date:

7/8/2021

Comprehensive Program Review Report

Academic Program Name: Certificate Financial Technology

College or School: School of Computing

Department: Information Technology

Date of Last Internal Review: 1st CPR review; certificate started Spring 2017

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

Current Date: 3/30/2021

Executive Summary: To meet the demands of Georgia's prominent Financial Technologies industry, Middle Georgia State University offers both an AS degree and a certificate in Financial Technology (FinTech). Both the AS degree and certificate in Financial Technology are offered entirely online through a combination of eCore online courses, and eMajor courses. The AS in Financial Technology is offered entirely online through a combination of eCore online courses and eMajor courses.

The enrollment for this program is anticipated to increase by 5% next year.

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: 2021.03.30 19:40:16 -04'00'

Dean of Graduate Studies Signature (when applicable):

Date:

IERB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Program Reviewed: Certificate: Financial Technology

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

Transitioning to entirely online through combination of E-core and E-major
 Board of Education was incorporating some of these courses in high schools throughout the state
 Some students came into the program seeking specific skills, but did not complete the program; they changed their degrees to BS in the same area

| 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> | | Only 1 student in 5 years, and it was an online student |
| Graduation Trends USG benchmark: Bachelor's Degrees: 10 graduates/year Graduate, Associate's or Certificates: 5 graduates/year <small>Programs falling under these benchmarks are designated as "low performing"</small> | <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> | | No graduates in 5 years |

IERB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Program Strengths of Note:

Have learned from lack of enrollment how to transition into an Associate's degree program

Flexible in incorporating technology

Areas of Serious Concern:

Lack of enrollment in 5 years (1 student)

Lack of graduation in 5 years (no graduates)

Lack of completion of certificate program

Other Comments:



Comprehensive Program Review

FY 2020 – 2021

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Academic Program: Certificate Financial Technology

College or School: School of Computing

Department: Information Technology

CIP Code: 307104

Date of Last Internal Review: 1st CPR review, certificate started Spring 2017

Faculty Completing Report: Johnathan Yerby

Current Date:

5 Year Enrollment by Campus and Graduation Trends

Enrollment: 5 year growth for programs by locations is 0% for Online. The overall 5 year growth regardless of campus is 0%.

| Campus | Fall 2016 | Fall 2017 | Fall 2018 | Fall 2019 | Fall 2020 | 5 YR Growth | Fall 2016 compared to Fall 2020 only |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Macon | | | | | | | |
| Cochran | | | | | | | |
| Warner Robins | | | | | | | |
| Dublin | | | | | | | |
| Eastman | | | | | | | |
| Online | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| Off Campus | | | | | | | |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0% | 0% |

Graduates

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

| FY 2016 | FY 2017 | FY 2018 | FY 2019 | FY 2020 | 5 YR Growth | FY16 compared to FY20 only |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|----------------------------|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0% |

To meet the demands of Georgia's prominent Financial Technologies industry, Middle Georgia State University offers both an AS degree and a certificate in Financial Technology (FinTech). Both the AS degree and certificate in Financial Technology are offered entirely online through a combination of eCore online courses, and eMajor courses.

To meet the demands of Georgia's prominent Financial Technologies industry, Middle Georgia State University is in the process of transitioning this program from an AS in Information Technology to a more specialized program - an AS in Financial Technology (FinTech). Check back soon for more details about this exciting new program.

The AS in Financial Technology will be offered entirely online through a combination of eCore online courses, and eMajor courses.

Facts about the Financial Transactions Technology Industry:

- Georgia is third in the nation in Financial Technology (FinTech) revenue.
- More than 60% of payment processing companies are based in Atlanta, and more than 70% of all U.S. payments processed run through Georgia.
- Georgia's FinTech industry has estimated a need for 10,000 new employees over the next 3 years.
- The average salary for FinTech software engineers tops \$100K annually.

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 taught by faculty at Middle Georgia State. We are expanding opportunities at a higher level to include 3000 and 4000 level courses from Georgia State University and Kennesaw State University. In the coming year we expect enrollment to increase through multiple partnerships.

The Georgia Department of Education is seeking to incorporate three courses into high schools across the state. Some will be advanced credit, which will not directly impact enrollment, and others will be dual enrollment. Students will be encouraged to complete the remaining two courses for the certificate program. Students will also be encouraged to continue their degree forward with the Associates in FinTech and eventually lead to a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, possibly with a concentration in Financial technology. We are seeing some of our students in this program come for only one or two courses because they specifically were seeking those skills. Some of our students in this program change to a BS degree before completing this program.

While the program does not have the outstanding success rate that the Department of IT's other programs do, it is a budding program with great potential. We plan to continue offering the courses and are actively working with eCampus, the Georgia Department of Education, and the Georgia FinTech academy to ensure future viability of the program.