

Section 3: Basic Eligibility Standards

3.1.a An institution seeking to gain or maintain accredited status has degree-granting authority from the appropriate government agency or agencies. (*Degree-granting authority*)
[CR]

Judgment

☒ Compliance ☐ Non-Compliance ☐ Not Applicable

Narrative

Fort Valley State University (FVSU) is currently seeking reaffirmation of accreditation and has had no change in its degree-granting authority. The Board of Regents (BoR) of the University System of Georgia (USG) confers degree-granting authority to FVSU and approves all degree programs offered. Two commencement ceremonies are held each academic year at the end of the fall and spring semesters. Prior to these ceremonies, it is the responsibility of the faculty to vote on, approve, and recommend to the president those candidates who have met all degree requirements. Those candidates who are approved can participate in graduation exercises and have their respective degrees conferred.

The BoR's authority to do so was established on 1931 in the [Excerpts of the Constitution of Georgia, Article VIII, Section IV, Paragraph 1\(b\)](#) which states:

The board of regents shall have exclusive authority to create new public colleges, junior colleges, and universities in the State of Georgia, subject to approval by majority vote of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Such vote will not be required to change the status of a college, institution, or university existing on the date of this Constitution. The government, control, and management of the University System of Georgia and all of the institutions in said system shall be vested in the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

This authority is also authorized by the Georgia General Assembly in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A. 20-3-51) ([Excerpts of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated 20-3-51](#)). The BoR's exclusive authority to govern and control the USG's member institutions includes the authority to abolish and add degrees (O.C.G.A. 20-3-32) ([Excerpts of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated 20-3-32](#)).











The Bylaws of the BoR also document the constitutional authority of the USG's governing board ([Excerpts of the Bylaws of the BoR - Section 1, Subsection 2](#)). The USG is comprised of 26 institutions classified as either a research university, comprehensive university, state university, or state college. In [Excerpts of the Bylaws of the BoR - Section 1, Subsection 6](#) and in [Excerpts of the BoR Policy Manual 2.8](#), FVSU is explicitly recognized and classified as a state university within the USG. State universities offer several undergraduate and master's level programs, but very few doctoral programs. Associate level degrees can be offered, but are typically limited at state universities. The BoR Policy Manual 3.6.1 states that degree program offerings by USG institutions must be reviewed and approved by the BoR ([Excerpts of the BoR Policy Manual 3.6.1](#)).

In June 1996, the BoR changed the name of Fort Valley State College to Fort Valley State University, as indicated in the minutes of the July 1996 meeting of the BoR ([Excerpts of the Minutes of the July 1996 BoR Meeting](#)). As part of the new designation, the BoR approved FVSU as a graduate and undergraduate degree-granting institution.

FVSU currently offers five degree programs that are available on campus and exclusively online. These programs are the Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership, the Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, and the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling and Case Management. For each program identified, the on-campus and online degrees are equal in terms of the course offerings and requirements necessary for degree completion. Students enrolled in the online degree programs can complete their degrees from outside Georgia, which requires appropriate state authorization. As such, FVSU holds membership in the [National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements \(NC-SARA\)](#) which

authorizes the institution to provide postsecondary education in states that are also members. FVSU's NC-SARA membership and approval were last renewed on [March 11, 2019](#).

Supporting Documentation

-  [Excerpts of the Constitution of Georgia, Article VIII, Section IV, Paragraph 1\(b\)](#)
-  [Excerpts of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated 20-3-51](#)
-  [Excerpts of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated 20-3-32](#)
-  [Excerpts of the Bylaws of the BoR – Section 1, Subsection 2](#)
-  [Excerpts of the Bylaws of the BoR – Section 1, Subsection 6](#)
-  [Excerpts of the BoR Policy Manual 2.8](#)
-  [Excerpts of the BoR Policy Manual 3.6.1](#)
-  [Excerpts of the Minutes of the July 1996 BoR Meeting](#)
-  [National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements \(NC-SARA\)](#)
-  [SARA Renewal Confirmation Letter](#)

3.1.b An institution seeking to gain or maintain accredited status offers all coursework required for at least one degree program at each level at which it awards degrees.
(*Coursework for degrees*) [CR]

Judgment

☒ Compliance ☐ Non-Compliance ☐ Not Applicable

Narrative

FVSU offers all coursework required to complete its degree programs at each level in which it awards degrees. Degree programs exist at four different levels: transfer associate's, bachelor's, master's, and specialist's degree levels. For each of the four levels, included below is an example of a degree program which lists all course requirements for degree completion along with the added notations of the last time (i.e., semester and year) each course was offered at FVSU. The details for each of the sample degree plans are presented on a degree requirement checklist that the university refers to as a balance sheet. Where elective course requirements exist in the example degree program, a minimum set of course options that can be used to satisfy degree completion requirements are either listed or inserted, and the terms during which those electives were last offered are also noted. Confirmation that all of these degree completion courses were offered in the semesters and years cited in the balance sheets is documented in the class schedules for [summer 2019](#), [spring 2019](#), [fall 2018](#), [summer 2018](#), [spring 2018](#), [fall 2017](#), and [spring 2016](#).

The Associate of Arts in Core Curriculum requires a minimum of 60 semester credit hours for degree completion. The [Balance Sheet for the Associate of Arts](#) documents that all required and a minimal set of elective courses for the completion of that degree program were offered within the last two semesters and one summer term at FVSU (i.e., [summer 2019](#), [spring 2019](#), and [fall 2018](#)).

The Bachelor of Arts in Psychology requires a minimum of 123 semester credit hours for degree completion. The [Balance Sheet for the B.A. in Psychology](#) documents that all required and a minimal set of elective courses for the completion of that degree program were offered within the





indicated semesters and one summer term at FVSU (i.e., [summer 2019](#), [spring 2019](#), [fall 2018](#), and [spring 2016](#)).

The Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) requires a minimum of 60 semester credit hours for degree completion. The [Balance Sheet for the CMHC](#) documents that all required and a minimal set of elective courses for the completion of that degree program were offered within the last two semesters and one summer term at FVSU (i.e., [summer 2019](#), [spring 2019](#), and [fall 2018](#)). Students taking approximately 9-12 hours per semester can expect to complete the program in 5-7 semesters. This equates to approximately two-and-a-half years when taking four classes per semester or three-and-a-half years taking three courses per semester. The CMHC program is currently pursuing accreditation through the Council on the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). CACREP is a nationally recognized organization and is recognized by the Council on the Higher Education Accreditation. This organization is also recognized by the State of Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapist, and the Licensed Professional Counselor Association of Georgia.

The Education Specialist in School Counselor Education requires a minimum of 27 semester credit hours for degree completion. The [Balance Sheet for the Education Specialist](#) documents that all required and elective courses for the completion of this degree program were offered within the indicated semesters and one summer term at FVSU (i.e., [spring 2019](#), [fall 2018](#), [summer 2018](#), [fall 2017](#), and [spring 2016](#)). The program meets all the educational requirements for the Professional School Counselor Certificate, Level 6. By taking two courses per semester, the program can be completed in five semesters.

Supporting Documentation

-  [Spring 2016 Class Schedule Meeting Times](#)
-  [Fall 2017 Class Schedule Meeting Times](#)
-  [Spring 2018 Class Schedule Meeting Times](#)
-  [Summer 2018 Class Schedule Meeting Times](#)
-  [Fall 2018 Class Schedule Meeting Times](#)
-  [Spring 2019 Class Schedule Meeting Times](#)
-  [Summer 2019 Class Schedule Meeting Times](#)

-  Balance Sheet for the Associate of Arts
-  Balance Sheet for the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
-  Balance Sheet for the Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
-  Balance Sheet for the Education Specialist in School Counselor

3.1.c An institution seeking to gain or maintain accredited status is in operation and has students enrolled in degree programs. (*Continuous operation*) [CR]

Judgment

☒ Compliance ☐ Non-Compliance ☐ Not Applicable

Narrative

FVSU already holds SACSCOC accreditation and has been under continuous operation since achieving that accreditation. The [USG's fall 2018 Semester Enrollment Report](#) showed FVSU with an enrollment of 2,776, with 2,359 undergraduate students and 417 graduate students.

FVSU offers several degree programs at the associate, bachelor, master, and education specialist levels ([Degrees and Majors Authorized](#)). The number of students enrolled in each degree program during the fall 2018 semester is shown below as the number of declared majors next to each program's listing ([Institutional Research Report on Enrolled Declared Majors by Degree Program](#)).

Associate

Associate in Arts, Core Curriculum - 0

Associate of Science, Core Curriculum - 0

Bachelor

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Media Studies - 130

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Liberal Studies - 64

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Psychology - 207

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Criminal Justice - 237

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Political Science - 34

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Visual and Performing Arts - 47

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in History, General - 19

Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Management - 196

Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Supply Chain and Logistics Management - 32

Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Accounting - 49

Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Marketing - 54

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Food Science - 3

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Computer Science - 118

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Agriculture Engineering Technology - 14

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Family and Consumer Sciences - 65

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Biology, General - 297

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Mathematics - 37

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Chemistry - 33

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Veterinary Technology - 160

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Organizational Leadership (e-Major Collaborative Partner) - 28

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with a Major in Agricultural Economics - 36

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with a Major in Animal Science - 61

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with a Major in Plant Science - 35

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with a Major in Agricultural Teacher Education (Vocational) - 12

Bachelor of Science in Education with a Major in Middle Grades Education - 38

Bachelor of Science in Education with a Major in Elementary Education/Special Education - 85

Bachelor of Science in Education with a Major in Health and Physical Education - 76

Bachelor of Science in Electronic Engineering Technology - 85

Bachelor of Social Work - 103

Master

Master of Public Health with a Major in Environmental Health - 122

Master of Science with a Major in Clinical Mental Health Counseling - 108

Master of Science with a Major in Rehabilitation Counseling - 112

Master of Science in Animal Science - 11

Master of Science in Biotechnology - 16

Master of Science in Education with a Major in School Counselor Education - 15

Master of Science in Education with a Major in Middle Grades Education - 6

Master of Science in Education with a Major in Elementary Education/Special Education - 5

Education Specialist

Education Specialist with a Major in School Counselor Education - 22

Supporting Documentation



[USG's fall 2018 Semester Enrollment Report](#)



[Degrees and Majors Authorized](#)



[Institutional Research Report on Enrolled Declared Majors by Degree Program](#)