The Office of Extended Education, formerly the Office of Continuing Education, is still located in Mount Hall, but a revamping of what it does has aligned the office more with Ohio State’s academic mission.

Adam King, onCampus staff

onCampus had a chat with Corinna Owens, interim director of the Office of Extended Education, about what has changed and what will change with the department formerly known as Continuing Education.

As Extended Education prepares to go back to school, Owens said the revamped department now parallels Ohio State’s overarching academic mission.

Owens: What was the purpose behind the name change?

Owens: We went through a program review and transition. What it does is better align us with Ohio State’s mission. We are now Undergraduate Education under the oversight of Dr. Wayne Carlson, the vice provost and dean of Undergraduate Education. We’re more closely aligned with the academic units.

We are a support unit, not a unit that will be delivering courses. We’ll partner with academic units and assist them with their course registrations and enrollments which includes undergraduates, non-degree students, contractual support agreements with academic units and conference planning services. We are moving away from the previous distance learning partnerships we had and finishing out any commitments we had with third-party arrangements to make sure courses we are supporting are Ohio State-quality courses, though some of those arrangements might still be available at our regional campuses.

Other non-credit certificates we’ve offered are now moved to academic units. They have picked up ownership or have partnered with us for delivery of courses for certificate programs our office will no longer be offering. They are the experts in their areas and they should have the responsibility for that instruction and topic areas that fall within their areas. For example, the Certified Financial Planner Certification Education program has been picked up by Fisher College of Business, the university expert in finance education.

We provide broader services than people who just need to take more coursework. We wanted a name that would capture a broader sense of our services.

Owens: This move to Undergraduate Education facilitates improved relationships with the academic units, allowing us to provide services better aligned with the academic mission. It also provides our office access to centralized services, such as fiscal services. We have already benefited from improvements with streamlined processes and efficiencies in processing of transactions, resulting in improvement of our service delivery to customers.

Owens: As colleges are looking how to better align themselves with their course registrations and special populations, we can provide consultation and enrollment services to academic units course offerings to special populations; Program 60; admissions processing and enrollment and advising services.

Owens: There are any other benefits to moving within Undergraduate Education?

Owens: This move to Undergraduate Education adjusted to the changes? Owens: They went through the transitions pretty well. We’re winding down the programs we’re no longer supporting and looking forward to new growth and new opportunities. There was not a huge role change for the staff here. They’re just continuing to do the many jobs they have been doing. But stay tuned and see how things evolve as the year goes along.

We’re really looking forward to supporting additional programs with the colleges.

Owens: What else would you like faculty and staff to know about the changes?

Owens: We have improved streamlined services for our conference management support, and I’ve received positive feedback on that. The response time in terms of service has improved, and I attribute that to the streamlined processes we have in delivering the services more efficiently.

And this isn’t anything new, but our advisors are still here for anyone interested in taking academic courses. They can come in and talk about options and the tuition plan if they have that university benefit. We’re here to serve the university academic units and our students.

With regard to distance education, the university tuition model supports distance education courses; however colleges may be interested in having more online offerings for special populations, and perhaps how they can deliver those. We will continue with the consultation and enrollment services to the colleges, and are looking forward to expanding programs. We are seeking to fill an Extended Education leadership position to help us grow our programs in these areas, particularly with distance education programming services.
The Office of Extended Education (EEd) has the tools and resources to help you thrive at The Ohio State University. Whether you are a non-traditional student, retired professional or an OSU faculty/staff member, EEd has something to make your experience easier.

**Enroll and Schedule Credit Classes**... Our academic advisors assist adult students who are interested in taking undergraduate credit courses as a non-degree seekers at The Ohio State University.

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