

Unit Plan for Assessing and Improving Student Learning in Degree Programs

Unit: Recreation, Sport and Tourism

Unit Head approval: Dr. Cary McDonald

Date: May 2, 2008

SECTION I: PAST ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Brief description of changes or improvements made in your unit as the result of assessment results since 2000.

The Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism offers the following degree program:

- Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Recreation, Sport and Tourism with concentration areas in Recreation Management, Sport Management and Tourism Management.
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Recreation, Sport and Tourism with concentration areas in Leisure Behavior, Recreation Management, Sport Management and Tourism Management.
- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Recreation, Sport and Tourism with concentration areas in Leisure Behavior, Recreation Management, Sport Management and Tourism Management.

Since 2000, the Department has moved from one Educational Policy Committee to an Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and a Graduate Curriculum Committee with specific responsibilities for curriculum revision, additions and subtractions assigned to the two respective committees. Results of the establishment of two separate committees have been the revisions of current course content and the addition of new courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level to support desired student outcomes. In addition, the sequencing of courses and the process and procedures used to evaluate student outcome assessment have been refined and improved.

It is the intention of the Department to coordinate our student outcome plan with the Council on Accreditation requirements of the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Association for Leisure and Recreation. Because the Council has significantly revised their standards and evaluation criteria, the new standards were used by the Department's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee to revise the curriculum to meet or exceed relevant accreditation standards.

SECTION 2: REVISED ASSESSMENT PLAN

(a) PROCESS: Brief description of the process followed to develop or revise this assessment plan.

The responsibility for developing the student outcome assessment plan was assumed by the Department Head and former Department Head with the intentions of coordinating the undergraduate plan with the new Council on Accreditation requirements for the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Association for Leisure and Recreation. The general development stages and the goals for each academic degree were discussed and approved at the Department Faculty Meeting on November 2, 2007. Faculty consensus was reached on the general approach for the student outcome assessment plan and included the following:

1. The Department's mission statement and goals for each degree program, undergraduate, Master's and Ph.D., will serve as a guide in developing the outcome assessment plan.
2. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee recommended the NRPA standards and criteria as measures of evaluating the professional competencies of students receiving the Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation, Sport and Tourism, and this recommendation was approved by the full faculty.
3. The evaluation of the Master's student outcome assessment will be completed by individual course instructors and reported to the Graduate Curriculum committee at the first meeting following the fall and spring semesters of each academic year.
4. Evaluation of the Ph.D. student outcome assessment will be completed during the spring semester with the Graduate Curriculum Committee and requires reports by all dissertation committee chairs and directors of research for Ph.D. students completing their degree during the academic year.
5. That the results of the Graduate Program Evaluation and the indicators contained within the survey will serve as a primary source of outcome data related to the graduate program including:
 - a. Percent of students receiving competitive/international fellowships/grants
 - b. Time to degree completion for M.S. students
 - c. Time to degree completion for Ph.D. students
 - d. Percent of employment in the field

- e. Quality of employment
 - f. Starting salary
 - g. Percent of new graduates who think their degree prepared them well for this field
 - h. Percent of new graduates who think their degree was very helpful in specific duties of their current job
6. The regular survey of alumni, on three year intervals, will include items from outcome assessment.
 7. The Department Head shall provide annually, in the fall of each year, a list of recommendations for improvements to the Undergraduate and Graduate Curriculum Committees.
 8. The Undergraduate and Graduate Curriculum Committees will establish an annual plan for curriculum and education program improvement and assume responsibility for implementation and management of the plan.

(b) STUDENT OUTCOMES: List Unit's student learning outcomes knowledge, skills, and attitudes).

(See attached)

(c) MEASURES AND METHODS USED TO MEASURE OUTCOMES:

(See attached)

SECTION 3: PLANS FOR USING RESULTS

(a) PLANS: Brief description of plans to use assessment results for program improvement.

Information obtained from the various outcome assessment techniques will be directed to the Department's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and Graduate Curriculum Committee. These Committees are responsible for overseeing and modifying the undergraduate and graduate academic programs. The Committee will review the assessment outcomes and develop a plan to incorporate new subject matter or otherwise modify particular courses, and will consult with the full faculty to develop curricula or other program changes. The Department's Alumni Advisory Board will also have the

opportunity to review the results of the outcome assessments and make recommendations for curricula improvements.

(b) TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

The student outcome assessment results, undergraduate, Master's and Ph.D., will be the focus of one or more regular faculty meetings to be held early in the fall semester of each academic year. The outcome assessment review will be completed each academic year. The plan will be updated and appropriate revisions will be made in the Department's academic program. The following timetable illustrates the activities necessary for ongoing maintenance of the plan.

Fall 2008

- Complete student outcome assessments for each degree program
- Compile admission information
- Compile ICES evaluations
- Compile data from ten-year Department profile
- Develop, implement, and compile data based on a survey of alumni
- Develop, implement, and compile data based on a survey by intern supervisors
- Complete a focus group with the Alumni Advisory Board

Spring 2009

- Present outcome assessment results to Undergraduate and Graduate Curriculum Committees
- Revisions to undergraduate, Master's and Ph.D. curricula as required.

Attachment:

**College of Applied Health Sciences
Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism**

Mission and Description:

Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

The Bachelor of Science curriculum prepares students to design, manage, and deliver leisure services to a variety of populations in diverse settings and provides a firm foundation from which students may pursue graduate studies. A broad general education is emphasized and complemented with a core of professional courses. Beyond a strong core integrating management, leisure theory, and research, the program allows students to focus their studies in an area of concentration within the leisure and recreation field. The major requires 128 credit hours for graduation, and consists of three components – general education requirements, professional core requirements including an internship, and an area of concentration. Areas of concentration: Recreation Management, Sport Management and Tourism Management.

**Learning Goals for the Bachelor of Science Degree
in Recreation, Sport and Tourism**

1. To develop an understanding of conceptual foundations of leisure and the role of leisure in contemporary society.
2. To develop an understanding of the social, behavioral and health science foundations of leisure.
3. To understand the professional history and practices of organizations in the recreation, sport and tourism industry.
4. To understand the concepts, principles and procedures of management, marketing, finance and human resource management to advance the mission of recreation, sport and tourism organizations.
5. To understand how to assess, plan and implement activities and program for recreation, sport and tourism organizations.
6. To understand how to conduct applied research and evaluation for the recreation, sport and tourism industry.
7. To develop an understanding of the principles and procedures for the planning, design, operations and evaluation of areas and facilities used by the recreation, sport and tourism industry.
8. To understand legal issues related to establishing and operating recreation, sport and tourism organizations.

**College of Applied Health Science
 Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism
 Student Outcome Assessment Plan
 Bachelor of Science in Recreation, Sport and Tourism**

Program Goals	Learning Objectives	Curriculum Mapping	Assessment Standard	Shared Actions
1. To develop an understanding of conceptual foundations of leisure and the role of leisure in contemporary society.	1.1. Knowledge of the role of leisure in contemporary society. 1.2. Knowledge of play, recreation and leisure throughout the lifespan. 1.3. Knowledge of interrelationship between leisure and natural environment.	RST 100, 230, 330, 429 RST 100, 300, 316, 429 RST 110, 242, 330	Direct measure: Analysis of student papers completed as part of RST 429 – Contemporary Issues in Leisure. Direct measure: Analysis of mid-term paper “Personal Values and Landscape” and final paper “Environmental Autobiography complete for RST 242.	Instructor reports to and discusses results with Department Head and Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Revisions will be made to course content or method of delivery to ensure attainment of objective.
2. To develop an understanding of the social, behavioral and health science foundations of leisure.	2.1. Knowledge of the social and behavioral foundations of leisure. 2.2. Knowledge of health science foundations of leisure	RST 100, 230, 330 RST 110, 300, 316	Direct measure: Analysis of six reaction papers completed as part of RST 330 – Leisure and Consumer Culture. Direct measure: Seven hourly exams completed as part of RST 316 – Leisure and Human Development.	Instructor reports to and discusses results with Department Head and Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Revisions will be made to course content or method of delivery to ensure attainment of objective.

Student Outcome Assessment Plan
Bachelor of Science in Recreation, Sport and Tourism

Program Goals	Learning Objectives	Curriculum Mapping	Assessment Standard	Shared Actions
3. To understand the professional history and practices of organizations in the recreation, sport and tourism industry.	3.1. Knowledge of professional history and practices of organization in the recreation, sport and tourism industry.	RST 100, 120, 130, 150	Direct measure: Management plan to be completed as part of RST 120, 130, or 150	Instructor reports to and discusses results with Department Head and Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Revisions will be made to course assignment to ensure attainment of objective.
4. To understand the concepts, principles and procedures of management, marketing, finance and human resource management to advance the mission of recreation, sport and tourism organizations.	4.1 Knowledge of the principles and practices of management.	RST 110, 300, 410	Direct measure: Analysis of administrative paper completed as part of RST 410 – Administration of Leisure Services.	Instructor reports to and discusses results with Department Head and Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Revisions will be made to course content or method of delivery to ensure attainment of objective.
	4.2 Knowledge of the principles and practices of marketing.	RST 320, 330	Direct measure: Analysis of marketing plan completed as part of RST 320 – Leisure Services Marketing.	
	4.3 Knowledge of the principles and practices of finance and budgeting.	RST 218, 410	Direct measure: Analysis of two exams completed as part of RST 410 – Administration of Leisure Services.	
	4.4 Knowledge of principles and practices of human resource management.	RST 200, 420	Direct measure: Analysis of two exams completed as part of RST 420 – Human Resource Management in Recreation, Sport and Tourism Organizations.	

Student Outcome Assessment Plan
Bachelor of Science in Recreation, Sport and Tourism

Program Goals	Learning Objectives	Curriculum Mapping	Assessment Standard	Shared Actions
5. To understand how to assess, plan and implement activities and programs for recreation, sport and tourism organizations.	5.1 Ability to assess, plan and implement programs for recreation, sport and tourism organizations.	RST 110, 216, 300, 341, 457	Direct measure: Analysis of written program plan and program implementation completed as part of RST 300 – Leisure Services Programming.	Instructor reports to and discusses results with Department Head and Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Revisions will be made to course assignment to ensure attainment of objective.
6. To understand how to conduct applied research and evaluation for the recreation, sport and tourism industry.	6.1 Ability to conduct applied research and evaluations for the recreation, sport and tourism industry.	RST 320, 341, 357	Direct measure: Analysis of ten papers demonstrating developmental knowledge of research and evaluation completed as part of RST 320 – Leisure Research Methods and Analysis	Instructor reports to and discusses results with Department Head and Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Revisions will be made to course content or method of delivery to ensure attainment of objective.

Student Outcome Assessment Plan
Bachelor of Science in Recreation, Sport and Tourism

Program Goals	Learning Objectives	Curriculum Mapping	Assessment Standard	Shared Actions
7. To develop an understanding of the principles and procedures for the planning, design, operations and evaluation of areas and facilities used by the recreation, sport and tourism industry.	7.1 Knowledge of the principles and procedures for the planning, design, operations and evaluation of areas and facilities used by recreation, sport and tourism organizations.	RST 110, 340, 341	Direct measure: Analysis of site evaluation report completed by all students in RST 340 – Leisure and Facility Management.	Instructor reports to and discusses results with Department Head and Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Revisions will be made to course content or method of delivery to ensure attainment of objective
8. To understand legal issues related to establishing and operating recreation, sport and tourism organizations.	8.1 Knowledge of legal issues related to establishing and operating recreation, sport and tourism organizations.	RST 110, 217, 218, 354, 420, 457	Direct measure: Analysis of examination outcome completed as part of course assignment for RST 217, 218, 354, 420, and 457.	Instructor reports to and discusses results with Department Head and Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Revisions will be made to course assignment to ensure attainment of objective.

**College of Applied Health Sciences
Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism**

Mission and Description:

Master of Science (M.S.)

The Master of Science degree is an advanced degree that educates students about leisure behavior and the management of recreation, sport and tourism organizations. Students select a thesis or non-thesis option to fulfill their 36 graduate hour requirement. The thesis option requirements include 12 hours of core courses in recreation, sport and tourism, 16 hours of restricted electives, and 8 hours of thesis. Students selecting the non-thesis option are required to complete 24 hours of core courses in recreation, sport and tourism, 8 hours of restricted electives, and 4 hours for the professional paper. Areas of concentration: Leisure Behavior, Recreation Management, Sport Management and Tourism Management.

**Learning Goals for the Master of Science Degree
in Recreation, Sport and Tourism**

1. Graduates will have an in-depth understanding of the conceptual foundations of recreation, sport and tourism (selected theories, methods, and principles that govern recreation, sport and tourism organizations).
2. Graduates will have an in-depth understanding of the significance of recreation, sport and tourism in addressing contemporary societal issues.
3. Graduates will have a solid foundation in the principles and procedures of management (marketing, human resources, finance and budgeting) for recreation, sport and tourism organizations.
4. Graduates will understand and have the ability to apply basic principles of research and data analysis related to recreation, sport and tourism.

College of Applied Health Science
Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism
Student Outcome Assessment Plan
Master of Science in Recreation, Sport and Tourism

Program Goals	Learning Objectives	Curriculum Mapping	Assessment Standard	Shared Actions
1. Graduates will have an in-depth understanding of the conceptual foundations of recreation, sport and tourism (selected theories, methods, and principles that govern recreation, sport and tourism organizations).	1.1. Knowledge of the conceptual foundations, methods and principles that govern recreation organizations.	RST 502	Direct measure: Analysis of examinations and term papers completed as part of course assignment of RST 502 – Foundations of Parks and Recreation.	Instructor reports to and discusses results with Department Head and Graduate Curriculum Committee. Revisions will be made to course content or method of delivery to ensure attainment of objective.
	1.2. Knowledge of the conceptual foundations, methods and principles that govern sport organizations.	RST 594S	Direct measure: Analysis of Management Plan completed as part of course assignment of RST 594S – Foundations of Sport.	
	1.3. Knowledge of the conceptual foundations, methods and principles that govern tourism organizations.	RST 594T	Direct measure: Analysis of Weekly Critical Analysis Papers completed as part of course assignment of RST 594T – Foundations of Tourism.	
2. Graduates will have an in-depth understanding of the significance of recreation, sport and tourism in addressing contemporary societal issues.	2.1. In-depth knowledge of the significance of recreation, sport and tourism in addressing contemporary societal issues.	RST 501	Direct measure: Analysis of two examinations and term papers completed as part of RST 501 – Foundations of Leisure Studies	Instructor reports to and discusses results with Department Head and Graduate Curriculum Committee. Revisions will be made to course content or method of delivery to ensure attainment of objective.

**Student Outcome Assessment Plan
Master of Science in Recreation, Sport and Tourism**

Program Goals	Learning Objectives	Curriculum Mapping	Assessment Standard	Shared Actions
3. Graduates will have a solid foundation in the principles and procedures of management (marketing, human resources, finance and budgeting) for recreation, sport and tourism organizations.	3.1 Knowledge of the concepts, principles and procedures for marketing of recreation, sport and tourism organizations.	RST 594MT	Direct measure: Analysis of Marketing Plan completed as part of RST 594MT – Leisure Services Marketing.	Instructor reports to and discusses results with Department Head and Graduate Curriculum Committee. Revisions will be made to course content or method of delivery to ensure attainment of objective.
	3.2 Knowledge of the concepts, principles and procedures of human resource management in recreation, sport and tourism organizations.	RST 512	Direct measure: Analysis of two examinations and term papers completed as part of RST 512 – Human Resource Management in Recreation, Sport and Tourism.	
	3.3 Knowledge of the concepts, principles and procedures of finance and budgeting for recreation, sport and tourism organizations.	RST 594FB	Direct measure: Analysis of Financial Strategy and Budget Proposal completed as part of RST 594FB – Financing and Budgeting.	
4. Graduates will understand and have the ability to apply basic principles of research and data analysis related to recreation, sport and tourism.	4.1 In-depth knowledge of the principles of research and data analysis related to recreation, sport and tourism.	RST 503	Direct measure: Analysis of research proposal and presentation completed for RST 503 – Advanced Research Methods.	Instructor reports to and discusses results with Department Head and Graduate Curriculum Committee. Revisions will be made to course content or method of delivery to ensure attainment of objective.

College of Applied Health Sciences
Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism

Mission and Description:

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

The Ph.D. is a research oriented degree that prepares scholars for positions in higher education, public agencies, and other research- based positions. Through the study of leisure behavior and rich offerings in many allied disciplines, students can tailor programs to compliment their academic goals. In addition to coursework, it is anticipated that doctoral students will engage in research, establish a record of scholarship, and gain teaching experience. A candidate for the Ph.D. degree must spend at least two years in residence and satisfactorily complete a minimum of 80 graduate hours beyond the Master's degree. These hours include the credit for the Ph.D. thesis. During their doctoral program, students complete coursework, written and oral comprehensive examinations, and a dissertation in an area of concentration. Areas of concentration: Leisure Behavior, Recreation Management, Sport Management and Tourism Management.

**Learning Goals for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree
in Recreation, Sport and Tourism**

1. Graduates will have an in-depth understanding of the philosophical, historical and scientific foundations and developments of leisure theory.
2. Graduates will have an in-depth understanding of the concepts, methods and problems of leisure research that are common to recreation, sport and tourism.
3. Graduates will have an in-depth understanding of research from neighboring disciplines to determine how their research may inform and influence research in recreation, sport and tourism.
4. Graduates will have an in-depth knowledge of the concepts, principles and practices that guide their areas of concentration in leisure behavior, recreation, sport or tourism.
5. Graduates will have an in-depth knowledge of advanced research methods and the ability to independently conduct research and interpret results.

**College of Applied Health Science
 Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism
 Student Outcome Assessment Plan
 Doctor of Philosophy in Recreation, Sport and Tourism**

Program Goals	Learning Objectives	Curriculum Mapping	Assessment Standard	Shared Actions
1. Graduates will have an in-depth understanding of the philosophical, historical and scientific foundations and developments of leisure theory.	1.1 Knowledge of the philosophical, historical and scientific foundations and developments of leisure theory.	RST 501	<p>Preliminary examinations are conducted after the completion of required coursework and the review of the student’s research prospectus. The preliminary examination has two parts: written followed by oral. It is recommended that the exam cover the following content areas (yet not necessarily be structured by these content areas): 1) recreation, sport and/or tourism theories and concepts, 2) research methodology, and 3) specialization area. Students have one day to respond to each committee members’ submitted question(s). The exam is to take place over consecutive days, and should not exceed five business days.</p> <p>The oral portion of the examination is a meeting between the student and</p>	<p>Results of the preliminary examination will be reported to the Department Head and the Graduate Curriculum Committee by the Committee Chair and Director of Research. Revisions will be made to the course offerings or course content to ensure attainment of objectives.</p>
2. Graduates will have an in-depth understanding of the concepts, methods and problems of leisure research that are common to recreation, sport and tourism.	2.1 Knowledge of the concepts, methods and problems of leisure research that are common to recreation, sport and tourism.	RST 550		
3. Graduates will have an in-depth understanding of research from neighboring disciplines to determine how their research may inform and influence research in recreation, sport and tourism	3.1 Knowledge of research from neighboring disciplines that inform and influence research in recreation, sport and tourism.	RST 551		

Student Outcome Assessment Plan
Doctor of Philosophy in Recreation, Sport and Tourism

Program Goals	Learning Objectives	Curriculum Mapping	Assessment Standard	Shared Actions
4. Graduates will have an in-depth knowledge of the concepts, principles and practices that guide their areas of concentration in leisure behavior, recreation, sport or tourism.	4.1 Knowledge of the concepts, principles and practices that guide leisure behavior, recreation, sport or tourism.	Eight hours of RST graduate coursework to support specialization.	<p>the committee. The purpose of the oral examination is to clarify, extend, and challenge the ideas developed in the written portion of the examination. The oral examination is not public.</p> <p>Grading for this exam follows the UIUC handbook for advising graduate students: pass, partial pass, partial fail, and permanent fail without opportunity to re-take. Grading decisions of the committee must be unanimous.</p>	Results of the preliminary examination will be reported to the Department Head and the Graduate Curriculum Committee by the Committee Chair and Director of Research. Revisions will be made to the course offerings or course content to ensure attainment of objectives.
5. Graduates will have an in-depth knowledge of advanced research methods and the ability to independently conduct research and interpret results.	5.1 Knowledge of advanced research methods and the ability to independently conduct research and interpret results.	Twelve hours of advanced research methods coursework to support dissertation and future research.	The purpose of the final defense of dissertation is to demonstrate the scholarly contribution to the research. A draft of the dissertation is to be delivered to each committee members and made available to the public (by hard copy in the departmental office) at least two weeks prior to the defense date. At the defense, the student is required to make a 20-30	Results of the dissertation defense will be reported to the Department Head and the Graduate Curriculum Committee by the Dissertation Chair and Director of Research. Revision in course offerings and course content will be made to support identified deficiencies.

Program Goals	Learning Objectives	Curriculum Mapping	Assessment Standard	Shared Actions
			<p>presentation followed by comments/questions from the non-committee audience; after which the non-committee audience is excused from the room and the committee and student meet to address specific issues for final revision of the dissertation.</p> <p>Grading for the defense of final dissertation follows the UIUC handbook for advising graduate students: pass, partial pass, partial fail, and permanent fail without the opportunity to re-take. Grading decisions of the committee must be unanimous.</p>	