

Recreation and Leisure Studies BS

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose

Institutional Mission Reference

The mission of the Recreation and Leisure Studies (RLS) Program is to facilitate the professional preparation of students interested in pursuing and/or continuing a career in recreation and leisure services. The RLS curriculum provides recreational management skills that are applicable to therapeutic recreation, outdoor recreation, tourism and commercial recreation, and public and military recreation service settings.

Vision Statement: To be a nationally recognized department known for its innovative programs and progressive leadership in preparing high quality graduates in the areas of athletic training, exercise science, physical education, recreation and sports management.

Institutional Goal(s) Supported

The undergraduate recreation and leisure studies program supports the University goals of:

- a. Quality undergraduate academic programs
- b. Quality teaching
- c. Discovery of new knowledge through research
- d. Community service

Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes, Methods for Assessment, Criteria for Success, Assessment Results, and Use of Results

Intended Outcome 1

Students will complete a professionally accredited program that will provide them with the credentials to pursue professional certification in the field.

Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: Pursue and acquire continued curriculum accreditation by the National Recreation and Park Association - American Association of Leisure and Recreation Council on Accreditation.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 1: The Recreation and Leisure Studies (RLS) Program was professionally accredited by the National Recreation and Park Association - American Association of Leisure and Recreation Council on Accreditation in October 1999. This action is valid for a period of five years and requires annual maintenance reports and fees until October 2004.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: Continue to be cited by the Society of Park and Recreation Education in their Curriculum Catalog and

website (www. activeparks.org) as a nationally recognized professionally accredited recreation curriculum.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 1:

The Old Dominion University Recreation and Leisure Studies (RLS) Program is currently cited in the 2000 - 2001 Curriculum Catalog (pages 348 - 350) as published by the Society of Recreation and Park Education. The RLS program is also listed on the National Recreation and Park Association's website as a professionally accredited recreation curriculum.

Intended Outcome 2

Upon graduation, students will qualify to sit for a national exam in order to pursue professional certification.

Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: Identify all RLS program graduates who plan to apply for professional certification upon graduation and document their passing rate on the national exam.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 2: RLS faculty have identified ten (10) therapeutic recreation graduates who have made application for the November certification exam in therapeutic recreation. Currently, there are no graduates applying for the October professional certification exam in Parks and Recreation.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: Document the passing rate of all Old Dominion University recreation graduates who take a national exam for professional certification via feedback from professional credentialing agencies (i.e. National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification, National Certification Council).

Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 2: The passing rate for Old Dominion University recreation graduates in therapeutic recreation is in the 90th percentile. We have only had two graduates fail the therapeutic recreation certification exam and one of those retook the exam and passed.

Intended Outcome 3

Students will be prepared to pursue professional employment in a diversity of recreation-related service settings.

Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: Identify all RLS program graduates and determine how many are currently employed in the profession, where they are employed, and in what capacity.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 3: RLS faculty are in the process of creating a mechanism (i.e. Alumni Survey) to track employment of RLS program graduates within the field of recreation and leisure services.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: Create a mechanism to track employment/placement of RLS program graduates within the field of recreation and leisure services.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 3: An Alumni Survey will be constructed during Fall 2001 for dissemination to recreation program graduates. RLS faculty will work with Alumni Affairs to identify current mailing addresses of program graduates.