

Recreation/Tourism Studies B.S.

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

- 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 Council on Accreditation.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 1: The NRPA/AALR Self-Study Report is currently being written. The report is due to the NRPA/AALR Council on Accreditation by October 2003. An accreditation visit will be scheduled for the Spring 2004 semester.

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: Old Dominion University's Recreation and Tourism Studies Program is currently listed in the Curriculum Catalog.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 1 to Improve Academic Program: The NRPA/AAPL self-study report will be used to document compliance with accreditation criteria and implement RTS curriculum changes.

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. It is expected that at least 50% of program graduates who take the exam will achieve a passing score.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 2: The National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification's most recent "College Report" indicates a mean score of 64.6 (passing score is 55) for ODU students.

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: Passing rate is stated above.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 2 to Improve Academic Program: The CTRS examination results will be used to strengthen the therapeutic recreation emphasis area within RTS. Feedback from senior exit interviews have indicated the need for more "hands-on" field work with different patient/client populations as well as more emphasis in case management of clinical populations.

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. At least 50% of program graduates who respond to the 2001 University Alumni Survey will indicate that they are employed in this field and at least two-thirds will indicate that are satisfied with the education they received in the program.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 3: Alumni survey is still being developed.

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" section has been added to the Recreation and Tourism Studies web site. Employment is listed on the alumni web page.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: At least two-thirds of seniors will indicate on the Senior Student Satisfaction Survey that they are satisfied with the preparation they received in the program.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 3: Exit interviews and surveys indicate two-thirds of seniors are mostly to extremely satisfied with their college preparation.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 3 to Improve Academic Program: Senior exit interview comments reveal that students would like more emphasis on field experiences of faculty in lecture presentation and greater emphasis in outdoor/parks recreation.