



Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE: Revisions to the Bachelors of Science Curriculum in the Department of Recreation, Sport & Tourism (RST), College of Applied Health Sciences (AHS)

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Proposed changes to the Bachelors of Science in RST (see Appendix B):

1. Reducing the number of credits in the core.
2. Reducing the number of credits in the concentration areas to provide more courses highlighting the linkages of recreation, sport and tourism.
3. Increasing the number of restricted and free electives to allow for further flexibility and individualization of studies.

JUSTIFICATION:

This proposal is the result of an extensive process and reflects the long-term vision of the Department. The proposed changes to the undergraduate curriculum in the Department of Recreation, Sport & Tourism are warranted given anticipated and monitored developments gathered via faculty discussion, with support from alumni and evidence of growth in the field. By streamlining the core and further integrating the concentration areas (i.e., recreation, sport and tourism), the proposed curriculum delivers the fundamentals of leisure sciences while supplementing with additional practical expertise to effectively manage the unique aspects of the industry. Moreover, the efficiency gains in the core and concentration areas allow a growing population of students interested in multiple concentrations to tailor their elective coursework accordingly.

Since the most recent program revision in 2004, the Department has incrementally accentuated the unions and intersections of recreation, sport and tourism. This grew out of a concerted effort to emphasize how the underlying social science and practical application are fundamentally valuable across contextual areas. The bounds of the departmental curriculum remain recreation,

sport and tourism, and are still linked via concepts related to communities and institutions. The proposed curriculum better targets effective stewardship of these societal anchors.

The Department's history is one of leisure behavior as its core, which will remain as a foundational basis of the Department. This had long been effective in student appreciation for the contextual linkages. The proposed curriculum strikes a balance of basic and applied science, detailed knowledge of the RST industry and managerial operations in the program's core. In so doing the student experience is apt to value the underlying leisure science, not as a stand-alone entity, but as a means to make effective decisions in their leisure choices and as leaders in the field of recreation, sport and tourism. This formal curricular revision is the culmination of a 10-year progression to bring social and managerial scientific areas into balance through the context of the recreation, sport and tourism curriculum.

Specific changes and their justifications are outlined below. Increasing the administrative components of the curriculum has received the endorsement of the RST faculty as well as alumni in the field. Beyond the support of faculty and industry the proposed changes are warranted given the unique position the industry occupies spanning the for-profit and non-profit sectors. In the proposed curriculum revision the combination of theories and practice across sectors is highlighted from the very first course in the curriculum, RST in Modern Society (RST 100), and emphasized as students delve into managerial effectiveness in the field. While the behavioral science introduced in RST 100 still undergirds the curriculum and is carried throughout, dropping from the core are topical courses such as Nature and Wilderness (RST 242) and Leisure and Human Development (RST 316; see Appendix C for changes to existing courses).

Event management is an emerging area of special emphasis, one that is increasingly being subsumed in recreation, sport and tourism programs. This area is already reflected in our faculty expertise as one of the primary, definitive intersections of the RST industry. In the revised curriculum we propose to feature events within the core of the curriculum via two courses--RST 4XV Event Management (adapted from Programming, RST 300) and RST 4XX Event Implementation and Evaluation.

RST will continue to teach the Gen Ed courses currently offered (RST 100, 242, 330, 370, 410). The Department is committed to offering these Gen Ed courses so that all of University of Illinois students have the opportunity to appreciate the conceptual underpinnings recreation, sport and tourism as connected with their daily lives. The roles of effectively-managed leisure are relevant to personal and social well-being. Gen Ed courses offered in RST have routinely spoken to the strong link between leisure and health. This has been an important role RST has consistently served for the University of Illinois and is committed to advance through this program revision.

Reducing the size of the core (from 41 to 36 credit hours) and concentration areas (from 16 to 9 credit hours; see Appendix B) and emphasizing the linkages across recreation, sport and tourism will allow for more student electives. The goal in expanding elective offerings is twofold. One, developing a wider range of electives; two, developing electives to further emphasize the integration of the concepts that cut across concentration areas.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

- a. **Additional staff and dollars needed** No new staff needed. Faculty hires since 2004 have incrementally emphasized the curricular shifts outlined in this proposal. The proposed revisions reflect the present faculty expertise. Program requirements can be

covered in full by the current faculty. Furthermore, increasing elective courses in the proposed revision represents a shift in faculty teaching assignments without increased staff costs.

- b. **Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.)** In order to teach the proposed core there is a need to develop two new courses (Financial Resource Management in RST, RST 2XY and Event Implementation and Evaluation, RST 4XX). Three additional courses--Management in RST (RST 2XX), Strategic Thinking in RST (RST 410) and Event Management (RST 4XV)—require revision to existing courses. One additional course has been developed and taught as an experimental course in Fall 2014, Communication in RST (RST 3XY). The groups of courses in need of permanent course numbers are in the areas of Finance, Events and Development--areas of competency among the current faculty and particularly recent faculty hires who intend to develop and teach the proposed courses. The addition of courses to the core is offset by the reduction of seven courses from it, three of which will be offered as electives (RST 230, 242 and 330) and thus less frequently.

Only one new course is being proposed as an addition to the concentration requirements—Sport & Development (RST 4XS). This is offset by the reduction of one course from the Recreation concentration (RST 218), two from the Sport concentration (RST 255 and KIN 142) and one from the Tourism concentration (RST 218). Ethical Issues in RST (RST 255) will be required for all majors.

Teaching loads and student-faculty ratio are projected to remain unchanged. Class size of courses moving into the core is projected to increase, offset by those moving from it. Demand for courses no longer required for the major will be assessed and offered less frequently as appropriate to student interest. A complete list of planned electives is provided in Appendix D.

c. **Effect on course enrollment in other units and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments** N/A. This revision does not project to change program enrollment in any particular units with the exception of Kinesiology. In the current curriculum KIN 142 is a component of the Sport concentration, but is not proposed to remain in that capacity in the revised curriculum. This has been communicated to Kinesiology department representatives (please see attached). The remaining revisions are intended as a restructuring of the curriculum to allow for more individualized study within the RST program with further linkages between recreation, sport and tourism management as well as an increasingly applied focus.

d. **Impact on the University Library** N/A. The proposed revisions will not affect usage of the library's collection. A letter of acknowledgment is attached.

e. **Impact on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.** N/A. These are not affected by the curricular changes.


DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2015

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

Recreation, Sport and Tourism students at the University of Illinois engage in a scholarly, practical and experiential learning environment to prepare them for management level positions in and amongst one of the world's largest and most dynamic industries. Benefiting from a model which emphasizes the nature of health and development, our graduates regularly interact with a globally recognized faculty and are uniquely qualified for careers in professional and intercollegiate sports, public and private recreation, convention and tourism, event management, and related disciplines.

CLEARANCES:

Signatures:


Unit Representative: _____

3/27/15
Date: _____


College Representative: _____

3/27/15
Date: _____

Graduate College Representative:

Date:

Council on Teacher Education Representative:

Date:

Appendix A:
(Budgetary and Staff Implications)
(Replace the following material with your appendix, if any.)

Revised Programs – Notes on Budgetary and Staff Implications

- 1) How does the unit intend to financially support this program?

The shifts in the proposed revisions reduce the total credits required in departmental core and emphasis areas. Implementation of courses moving from requirement to elective does not require additional financial support to fulfill. Surplus resources regained from courses transitioning from core to elective and courses no longer being taught will be allotted to new courses.

- 2) Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources?

The curricular changes streamline the program's core. There is a net reduction in the core and concentration hours required for graduation. As a consequence additional electives can be developed and offered without request of additional resources.

- 3) If no new resources are required, how will the unit create capacity or surplus to appropriately resource this program? (What functions or programs will the unit no longer support?)

All current functions will remain in some capacity, although many of these will be reduced and therefore require fewer resources. Those resources will be redistributed to support the curricular areas that will be emphasized in the proposed revisions. Specifically, course sizes of those moving from the elective to core would project to increase and therefore require additional resources, but the reverse is equally true. There is no anticipated shift in the relative quantity of students concentrating in Recreation, Sport and Tourism attributable to the curricular revisions.

- 4) Please provide a market analysis: What market indicators are driving this proposal? What type of employment outlook should these graduates expect? What resources will be required to assist students with job placement?

Programs in Recreation, Sport and Tourism are among the most popular and fastest growing in higher education. For example, while in 1985 only 40 undergraduate programs in Sport existed (per the North American Society for Sport and Physical Education), that total has risen to more than 300 today (per the North American Society for Sport Management). This is true for programs in recreation, sport and tourism as well as those incorporating their union. The division of the field is a synthetic academic creation, resulting in curricular misalignment with the needs of the marketplace. Increasingly programs on the forefront have recognized the linkages and invited the

academic coexistence of recreation, sport and tourism to match that of the advancing industry. This was made explicit in the renaming of the Department from Leisure Studies to Recreation, Sport & Tourism in 2004, however minimal curricular changes were made to match the rebranding effort. Thus there is considerable potential to capitalize on growth in the demand for the recreation, sport and tourism major by refining the curriculum to compete with other leading programs.

Recent surveys conducted by the Department show internship supervisors, program alumni, alumni board and national associations suggest greater emphasis on career application and financial management for entry-level positions on leadership tracks. These are highlighted in the revision as is the space for individual specialization between and among recreation, sport and tourism management.

5) If this is a proposed graduate program, please discuss the programs intended use of waivers. If the program is dependent on waivers, how will the unit compensate for lost tuition revenue?

N/A

Appendix B: Proposed Curriculum Revisions

Revised Curriculum

	Recreation	Sport	Tourism
Gen Ed 36 hours			
Core Courses 39 hours	RST 100 RST in Modern Society (3) RST 101 Orientation to RST (1) RST 200 Leadership in RST (2) RST 255 Ethical Issues in RST (2) RST 2XX Management in RST (3) RST 2XY Financial Resource Management in RST (3) RST 320 Leisure Services Marketing (3) RST 340 Leisure and Facility Management (3) RST 370 Research in Leisure Studies (3) RST 3XY Communication in RST (3) RST 410 Strategic Thinking in RST (3) RST 4XV Event Management (3) RST 4XX Event Implementation and Evaluation (3) RST 429 Contemporary Issues in RST (3) RST 480 Orientation to Practicum (1)		
Concentration Requirements 9hours	RST 120 Fdn of Rec (3) RST 217 Public Rec (3) RST 4XR Comm Rec & Planning (3)	RST 130 Fdn of Sport (3) RST 354 Legal Aspects of Sport (3) RST 4XS Sport & Devp (3)	RST 150 Fdn of Tour (3) RST 351 Cultural Aspects of Tour (3) RST 457 Tour Devp (3)
Restricted Electives 12 hours	Departmental courses not required in the core or counted toward concentration requirement		
Free Electives 20 hours	Any courses not counted toward core requirements, concentration requirements or restricted electives		
Internship 12 hours	RST 484 (12)		

Current Curriculum

	Recreation	Sport	Tourism
Gen Ed 41 hours			
Core Courses 42 hours	RST 100 RST in Modern Society (3) RST 101 Orientation to RST (1) RST 110 Service Delivery in RST (2) RST 200 Leadership in RST (2) RST 216 Technology and Leisure (3) RST 230 Leisure & Diversity (3) RST 242 Nature and American Wilderness (3) RST 300 Programming in Leisure Studies (3) RST 316 Leisure and Human Development (3) RST 320 Leisure Services Marketing (3) RST 330 Leisure and Consumer Culture (3) RST 340 Facility Management in RST (3) RST 370 Research in Leisure Studies (3) RST 410 Administration of Leisure Services (3) RST 420 Human Resource Management in RST (3) RST 480 Orientation to Internship (1)		
Concentration Requirements 16 hours	RST 120 Fdn of Rec (3) RST 217 Public Rec (3) RST 218 Entrepreneurship (3) RST 341 Comm Rec Planning (3) RST 429 Contemporary Issues in RST (4)	RST 130 Fdn of Sport Mgmt (3) KIN 142 Sport & Society (3) RST 255 Ethical Issues in RST (2) RST 354 Legal Aspects of Sport (3) RST 429 Contemporary Issues in RST (4)	RST 150 Fdn of Tourism Mgmt (3) RST 218 Entrepreneurship (3) RST 351 Cultural Aspects of Tourism (3) RST 457 Tourism Development (4) RST 429 Contemporary Issues in RST (4)
Dept Electives 12 hours	Departmental courses not required in the core or counted toward concentration requirement		
Free Electives 5 hours			
Internship 12 hours	RST 484 (12)		

Summary of changes:

RST 110 will transition to 2XX and increase from two to three credit hours

RST 300 will transition to 4XV

RST 410 will further emphasize strategy and be retitled to convey the change

RST 341 will transition to 4XR

RST 255 will move from the sport concentration area to a core requirement

RST 429 will move from each of the concentration areas to a core requirement. The course will be reduced from four to three credit hours.

Appendix C:
Current Courses and Proposed Changes

Course #	Course Name	Proposed Changes*
100	RST in Modern Society	
101	Orientation to RST	
110	Service Delivery in RST	transitions to 'Management in RST' (RST 2XX)
120	Foundations of Recreation	
130	Foundations of Sport Management	
140	Nature and Wilderness	
150	Foundations of Tourism	
199	UG Open Seminar	
200	Leadership in RST	
216	Leisure and Technology	no longer in core
217	Public Recreation	
218	Entrepreneurship	no longer in Recreation & Tourism Concentrations
230	Leisure Services and Diversity	no longer in core
242	Nature and American Culture	no longer in core
255	Ethics in RST	moved from Sport concentration to core requirement
300	Leisure Programming	transitions to 'Event Management' (RST 4XV)
312	Discovery, Tourism and Travel	no longer offered
314	Introduction to Aging	no longer offered
316	Leisure and Human Development	no longer in core
320	Leisure Services Marketing	
330	Leisure and Consumer Culture	no longer in core
340	Facility Management in RST	
341	Community Recreation Planning	offered as 400-level course (RST 4XR)
351	Cultural Aspects of Tourism	
354	Legal Aspects of Sport	
357	Technology and Sport	
365	Civic Engagement and Wellness	
370	Research Methods & Analysis	
390	Honors	
393	Special Problems	
410	Administration of Leisure Services	transitions to 'Strategic Thinking in RST'
420	HRM in Leisure Organizations	no longer offered
429	Contemporary Issues in RST	moved from four to three credit hours
457	Tourism Development	moved from four to three credit hours
480	Orientation to Practicum	
484	Practicum	
* no change unless noted		

Appendix D:

Electives	
140	Nature and Wilderness
218	Entrepreneurship
230	Leisure Services and Diversity
242	Nature and American Culture
316	Leisure and Human Development
330	Leisure and Consumer Culture
357	Technology and Sport
199	Play Across the Lifespan
199	Facility Tour
199	New Zealand
199	Outdoor Rec & Environmental Philosophy
199	Leisure Health & Wellness
199	Sport Economics
199	Disability in RST
199	Study Abroad - Fiji Wintermester
199	Sport & Sustainability
KIN 142	Contemporary Issues in Sport