

EP.07.13

RECEIVED

OCT 10 2006

OFFICE OF THE SENATE

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL: Proposed Revisions to the Masters of Science Degree in the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism, College of Applied Health Sciences

SPONSOR: College of Applied Health Sciences
Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism
Contact: Dr. Cary McDonald, Head
104 Huff Hall, 333-4410

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Increase the required credit hours for a Masters of Science Degree in Recreation, Sport and Tourism from 32 credit hours to 36 credit hours and make minor revisions to the catalogue description to better reflect current program emphasis. A proposed sample format is displayed in Appendix A.

JUSTIFICATION:

Thesis Option:

Many students pursuing the thesis option consider a Ph.D. and see this as preparation for the advanced degree. Faculty advisors have observed that with today's requirements for admission to the most desirable Ph.D. granting institutions a higher level of preparation is needed than in the past. Students often lacked grounding in their content area and those with an adequate theoretical foundation frequently lacked the "tools" to execute a quality study. Thus, the addition of one graduate course, at the 500 level, would provide the additional knowledge necessary to complete a comprehensive thesis of high quality. A sample program is displayed in Appendix B.

Non-Thesis Option:

After a thorough review of the MS curriculum the Graduate Committee agreed that to better serve the interests of Masters students wishing to enter the leisure service professions, two basic changes need to occur: 1) a more structured program (management core) of study is needed (24 hrs), and 2) requiring a professional paper (4 credit hours) is more desirable than a classes-only option. It was found that a program limited to 32 credit hours did not provide the preparation necessary to be a successful professional. An increase of 4 credit hours will enhance the educational opportunities for graduate students. A 36 hour program is not inconsistent with others at UIUC, nor in our field. A sample program is displayed in Appendix B.

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

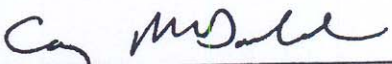
BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

- 1. Additional staff and dollars needed.** Although workloads will be increased by adding an additional course, new faculty hires over the past three years have permitted flexibility in faculty course loads and assignments. The proposed revisions will not require additional financial resources or staffing. The proposed revisions maintain the standard faculty teaching load of four courses per year.
- 2. Internal reallocations.** There is no need for internal reallocations for class size or larger work loads. As noted above, faculty workloads will not be increased nor will class size. We expect little change in the number of M.S. graduate students admitted to our program.
- 3. Effect on course enrollment in other departments.** There should be no effect on courses in other departments, as the additional 4 hours are department dependent.
- 4. Impact on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.** There is no need for additional library acquisitions, as current resources are adequate to accommodate graduate student needs. There will be a need for classroom space—our classroom space request will increase by one.

GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:


Not needed—graduate program request

CLEARANCES:



Dr. Cary McDonald, Head, Recreation, Sport & Tourism

5-4-06
Date



Dr. Bo Fernhall, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs

5-24-06
Date



Dr. Tanya Gallagher, Dean, College of Applied Life Studies

5/24/06
Date

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

Graduate Degree Programs

The Department of Recreation, Sport & Tourism offers programs of study leading to the master of science and the doctor of philosophy degrees. The master of science program educates students about leisure behavior, public parks and recreation systems, sport and tourism, in various private and semipublic settings providing leisure services. The M.S. degree may be undertaken as a terminal professional track program or serve as the first step toward the Ph.D. program. The Ph.D. program is, in general, designed to develop educators and research personnel in the study of leisure behavior, the management of recreation, tourism, and sport systems that provide leisure services, or both.

Admission

The Graduate College admission requirements apply. Specifically, the admission requirements are a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (A = 4.0) for the last two years of undergraduate work and any graduate work completed. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required for all graduate degrees. A minimum score of 600 is required on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) (250 on the computer-based test). Students are also required to provide a statement of purpose outlining their area of study, and three letters of reference. Preference is given to applicants who will be full-time students and active degree candidates. Students may be admitted for the fall, spring, or summer semesters.

Graduate Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience in this program. It is also anticipated that doctoral students will engage in research activities and scholarly communication under the guidance of their Advisor.

Doctor of Philosophy

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 units include the credit for the Ph.D. thesis. Departmental requirements include satisfactory performance on the written preliminary examination at the completion of formal coursework, the oral preliminary examination on the proposed research for the thesis, and a final examination in defense of the doctoral thesis.

Master of Science

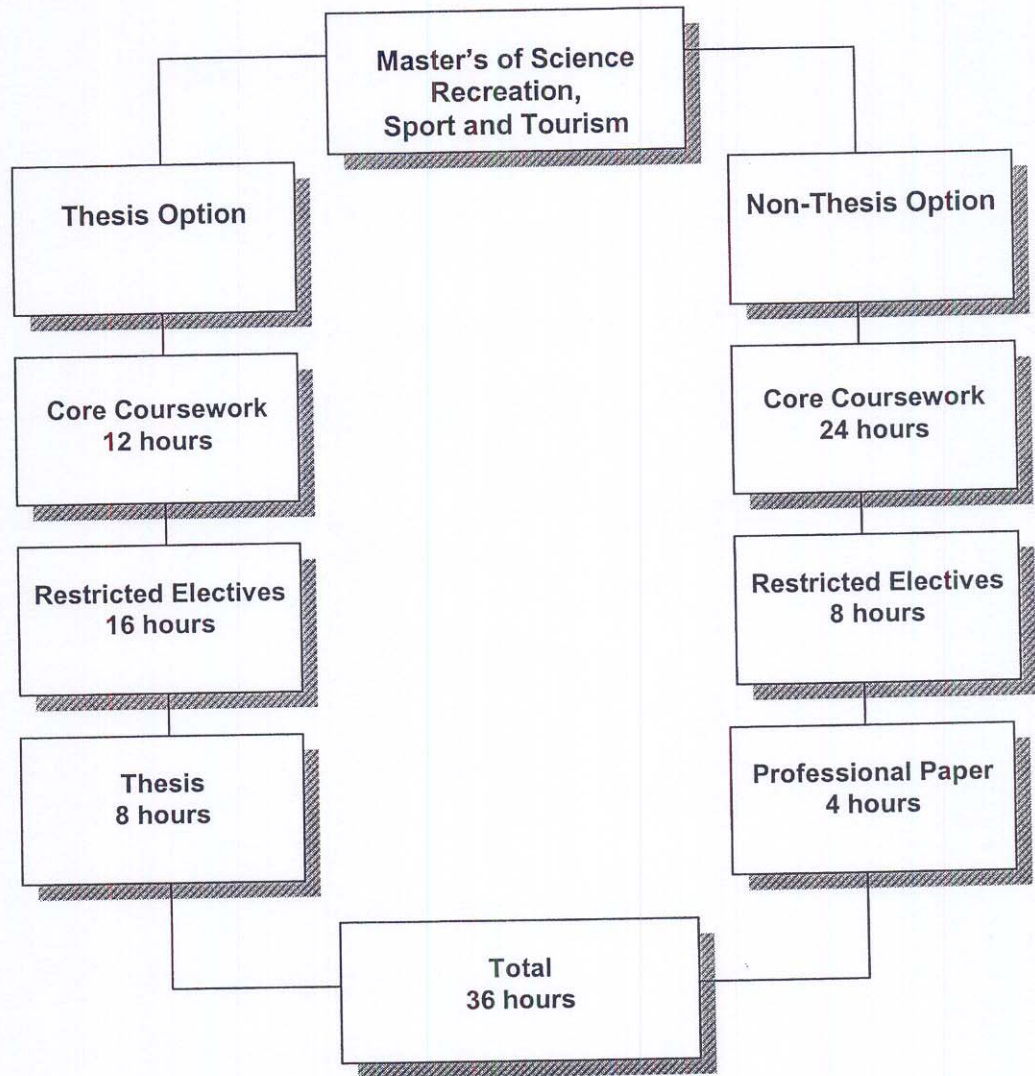
A candidate for the M.S. degree must spend at least one semester on campus and complete a minimum of 36 graduate hours, 16 of which must be at the 500 level and 12 of the 16 in recreation, sport and tourism. Students select a thesis or a non-thesis option to fulfill their requirements. The thesis option requirements include 12 hours of core course work 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 in core course work in recreation, sport and tourism, 8 hours of restricted electives, and 4 hours for a professional paper. A full-time student can complete the program in three or four semesters.

Financial Aid

The department offers quarter-time and half-time assistantships in teaching, administration, and research, as well as tuition and fee waivers and the opportunity to apply for fellowships

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Approval

Appendix A Proposed Sample Format



Note: Restricted electives are selected in consultation with advisor and include specialization and approved elective courses, in the department as well as outside the department

Appendix B Sample Program

Option 1 Thesis

12 hrs Core Courses (RST 501; 503; one of three foundation
courses: RST 502, 594S or 594T; and 590)

16 hrs Restricted Electives ¹

8 hrs Thesis (RST 599)

36 Total hrs

Option 2 Non-Thesis (Professional Paper)

24 hrs Core Courses (RST 501; 503; 512; one of three foundation
courses: RST 502, 594S or 594T; 594MT; 594FB; and 590)

8 hrs Restricted Electives ¹

4 hrs Professional Paper (RST 593)

36 Total hrs

¹ Restricted electives are selected in consultation with advisor and include specialization and approved elective courses, in the department as well as outside the department