



College of Science
Dept. of Integrated Sciences and Technology
Natural Resources and Recreation Management

October 12, 2010

Dear members of the Marshall University Assessment Committee:

I am writing to report the status of the Recreation and Park Resources assessment plan per your request last spring. Much has changed since the filing of the last update. The Recreation and Park Resources Program has undergone a curriculum and name change and is now entitled "Natural Resources and Recreation Management" (NRRM). Additionally, we moved the program from the College of Education and Human Services and the School of Kinesiology to the College of Science and we are now a program within the Department of Integrated Sciences and Technology (IST). This change became effective July 1, 2010.

With this change in our curriculum and move to the Dept. of IST, we again had to revise our curriculum to meet the standards for the College of Science and the general curriculum requirements for the Dept. of IST. In doing such, the NRRM coursework was decreased from 58 credit hours to 38 credit hours for the new major. Additionally, students must complete 33 hours of IST courses. Because of these changes the NRRM faculty is working closely with Professor and IST Department Chair Mike Little, as well as other members of IST to develop new outcomes for the NRRM assessment plan that reflects the new NRRM curriculum and the departmental curriculum requirements of IST. Consequently, much is left to complete before we can provide a concrete assessment plan to the committee.

The following information should provide insight concerning the direction the NRRM assessment plan. There will be two major components to NRRM's future assessment plan. One mechanism that will be used is a pre-test/post-test that assesses a variety of the planned objectives, the general IST curriculum, and much of the NRRM curriculum. Students will complete this assessment when they declare NRRM as their major and prior to graduation. This assessment will look at knowledge retention and skill application to solving problems in the field. The second major component of our assessment will be the capstone experience. NRRM seniors will have the opportunity to choose a 6 week (240 hour) summer internship or a 6 credit hour research project. The summer internship includes bi-weekly reflections, mentor evaluations, and a final portfolio of the experience at the internship's conclusion. The research project includes a two semester course sequence in which students will develop and complete an empirical research project in collaboration with an IST faculty member. The senior capstone project is already developed and in place. The pre-test/post-test assessment measures are

being developed in an expedient manner so that new majors (2010-2011) can partake in the pre-test in the spring term of 2011. These students will complete the post-test in the spring term of 2014. New majors will either enroll in the research project for the 2013-2014 school year or complete the summer internship during the summer of 2014.

Finally, we are diligently working on developing new outcomes based on the revised curriculum and its integration in IST and general focus on technology and science. To date, the following outcome measures are being considered in draft form:

Outcomes assessed using pre-test / post-test:

- PPT Outcome I: Given a real world problem in the student's area of expertise, students will be able to choose the most appropriate technology to solve the problem.
- PPT Outcome II: Students will be able to analyze the potential consequences of the hardware and software technology choices they have made to solve problems.
- PPT Outcome III: Students graduating from the NRRM program shall demonstrate entry-level knowledge of the historical and current scientific and philosophical foundations of the profession for which the program prepares students.
- PPT Outcome IV: Given real world scenarios, students will be able to analyze and decide on the right course of action for providing leadership and direction to the task(s) at hand.
- PPT Outcome V: Students will understand the dynamic relationship for the interaction between humans and environment and will be able to develop a written directive that synthesizes major concepts from their studies that explains such situations.

Outcomes assessed during senior research capstone:

- Research Outcome I: Students will be able to plan and execute a project at a professional level using discipline-specific knowledge.
- Research Outcome II: In the development of their project, students will be able to clearly identify an issue and relate the goals and objectives of the project to this issue.
- Research Outcome III: In the development of their project, students will design an experiment or project employing the appropriate scientific technical methods.
- Research Outcome IV: In the development of their project, students will analyze data in appropriate form based on type of data.
- Research Outcome V: In the development and presentation of their projects, students will show originality in both the development of purpose the work and creativity in the design of the methods for the work.

Outcomes assessed during senior summer internship:

- Internship Outcome I: In the completion of their internship, students will utilize knowledge and skills gained from the major in completing assigned tasks and responsibilities.
- Internship Outcome II: In the completion of their internship, students will engage in a variety of roles with the agency in order to develop a holistic understanding for the agency's many attributes.
- Internship Outcome III: In the completion of their internship, students will provide continuous reflection and reporting of the experience that discusses their application of skills, problem solving and critical thinking experiences, as well as their growth through the process.

Again, these outcome measures are only in draft and they should be finalized in the coming months.

We will continue to work with Professor Little in the development of our assessment plan and will report to this committee accordingly as the outcomes and assessment tools are finalized. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or suggestions about the NRRM assessment plan.

Sincerely,

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