Recreation Program Graduation Survey Fall 2010

Prepared by

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Background Information

The purpose of the 2010 Recreation Program Graduation Survey was to query graduating students from the Recreation program for their perspectives on the relative experience and learning outcomes associated with their involvement in the Recreation Program at Western Washington University. The on-line survey was developed from versions used in years past, but included new questions that were more aligned with recently developed goals and objectives developed by program faculty in the summer of 2009. This was done to more directly link the programs’ goals and objectives to learning outcomes in preparation for NRPA Accreditation in 2011/2012. Faculty reviewed the survey and had opportunity to comment on the content and layout of the question and answers. A total of 57 students were identified as graduating students from the program. A total of 54 surveys were returned, yielding a response rate of 94%. The following summarizes the results of the survey. Most questions are simply presented as to how students responded to the question based on simple illustrative descriptive and frequency statistics associated with each question.
Figure 1. Percentage of respondents, presented by year, who indicated their planned graduation date.

![Bar chart showing percentage of respondents by year and graduation date]

Figure 2. Average score asking students to rate each the following aspects of the Recreation Program according to their level of satisfaction (1 Very Unsatisfied – 4 Very Satisfied)

![Bar chart showing average scores for different aspects of the Recreation Program, comparing 2009 and 2010]
Figure 3. Average score asking students to rate their level of satisfaction of the Recreation Program’s contribution to developing their skills and abilities in the areas below (1 Very Unsatisfied – 4 Very Satisfied)

Figure 4. The skills and abilities, presented by percentages, that students experienced the most growth in their experience in the Recreation Program
Figure 5. The skills and abilities, presented by percentages, that students experienced the most growth in their experience in the Recreation Program that would help them in their career.

Figure 6. Average score asking students to rate how important the following aspects Recreation Program helped them learn the following skills  (1 Very Unsatisfied – 4 Very Satisfied)
Figure 7. Knowledges and concepts, presented by percentages, that students experienced the most growth in through their experience in the Recreation Program.

Figure 8. Concepts, presented by percentages, that students experienced the most growth in through their experience in the Recreation Program that would help them in their career.
Figure 9. Please rate each of the following courses in the Recreation Program according to how relevant you felt they were to their professional development (1 Not at all Relevant– 4 Very Relevant)

- Program evaluation
- Leadership
- Budgeting and finance
- Assessment
- Human relations
- Management
- Program planning
- Principles and contemporary issues related to profession
- Professional foundations (history, philosophy, values)

Figure 10. Average responses to how students felt about the most important activities in the Recreation program, and how they supported their growth and learning (1 Not at all Important– 4 Very Important)
Figure 11. Percentage of students who indicated their emphasis area.
Open Ended Responses from the Question: Is there anything else that you want to tell us about your experience in the Recreation Program? Those things highlighted in yellow represent constructive criticisms of the program. Other comments suggest satisfaction with the experience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Love it.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thank you for everything! Any other program and I wouldn't have learned half as much.</td>
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<tr>
<td>It has been one of the best experiences of my life to this date, and the community that has formed is something that has helped me to push myself to want to be a better person.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>None of us have careers yet, how are we supposed to know which classes were beneficial in being prepared?</strong></td>
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<td>I think it also taught me how to think and use my brain.</td>
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<tr>
<td>This is one of the most amazing programs Western has to offer. The dedication of the professors here at WWU is stellar and the program is top of the line. I cannot say enough good things about the Recreation program and its professors. I am really proud that I got to be a part of it.</td>
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<tr>
<td>It was AWESOME! I would do it all over again if I could! Best school/learning experience I have ever had.</td>
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<td>I feel the WWU recreation program gave me a well rounded education in a broad field that has huge effects in many areas of peoples lives. I wouldn't change my choice to be a part of this program and I am thrilled with the education I am walking away with.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The phase is an excellent environment for creating a community, fostering growth, and an avenue for positive personal challenge. This program exemplifies the positive social changes that need to occur in our society if we wish to become more sustainable, connected, and overall happy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hardskills</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It has changed my life for the better. I have never had the opportunity to work with a cohesive and enjoyable unit such as this one. I will never ever forget what it has done for me and how it has fueled me towards my future. Thank you to everyone who makes this program possible and pushes those in it to become a better person, leader, and professional. I appreciate and am so thankful for you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Recreation program at WWU is amazing! This past year and a half has been life changing. Through participating in the Rec program I have formed a strong foundation in my philosophies regarding TR. I would not take any of it back for the world. I am confident that I can make a positive impact on the future, and I thank my professors and colleagues for fostering my growth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanks for an amazing experience that I will never forget!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Every college major should implement a similar system.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>I’ve been in a lot of different programs across a wide spectrum of disciplines, schools, and organizations, and in my book, this program is tied for being the best program ever!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The phases shift drastically from extremely engaging and interactive, to complete lecture pace phase to</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
But over all we have developed a family unlike any other.

I think it is a wonderful program. The people are incredible. it is the only reason I am going to finish and graduate college.

I've learned more and have grown more personally and professionally then any other program/college year ever before in my life!

Kicked ass

The Recreation Program showed me how I could combine my passion for teaching and my passion and need to be outdoors to form a career I could truly love. There is no other program like it. By far the best part of my college career.

It changed my life, ave me direction. I don't know where I would be without it. The connections, relationships I have made have strengthened me and have helped me increase my social skills and willingness to meet new people and new experiences. The professors have shown true professionalism as well as being great mentors, resources and support system. Comparing it to other programs, there is no comparison as all. I loved this program!!!!!!! I am forever indebted to it.

bomb.com

It is amazing. It is unique. Priceless. Best experience of my life.

Changed my philosophy regarding life and where I belong within this world. Made me appreciate the people around me and those that I associate myself with. An incredibly influential piece of my life.

I really enjoyed and appreciated how everything we learned we very applicable in the near future. We didn't learn about what happens when we own a major corporation, we learned how to start a small, realistic business. Also everything we talked about was very relevant and hands on.

It is an extremely unique and wonderful program that I was lucky enough to get accepted into and to graduate from. I am a better person and professional because of the knowledge that these amazing professors have passed on to me.

I feel like this survey does not due justice to how much this program has allowed me to grow professionally and personally.

The Phase is an amazing system. I can say it has brought me away from depression I experiences prior to having such a close knit group of friends of campus, without this making through college would have been a struggle. Also, we love you all as professors and we laughing together and making you laugh. "Here's the however" (Dr. Burtz, 2010), without taking away from the personal relationships you all get to enjoy with your students possible more boundaries need to be set with in the classroom. "This a room of young professional and though we can have fun an develop friendships, when it comes to business time we expect you to preform as professionals." Just a few thoughts.

Peace, Love, Rec

I really think that the Recreation program has opened up my eyes to how to serve people to the best of my abilities. It is so important to just be aware of other thoughts and ideas out there from other people, and I
am so thankful to my peers and teachers for allowing everyones ideas to be heard in a safe enviornement. I loved all the phases, and I am very sad that it is coming to an end up excited for Phase IV.

Just an Amazing program

This is an amazing program that accomplishes much more than teaching students about recreation and the importance of leisure in the lives of individuals across the globe. Students who choose to become a part of Western Washington University's Recreation Program also develop and grow into strong leaders, free thinkers, passionate professionals, and compasionate members of society. The phase is more than classes, tests, and projects, the phase is a supportive family that demands individual students to strive to reach thier full potential. This program is a life changing experience that will be a positive and inspirational force in the lives of all of its graduates.

Loved it. Grew as a professional and a human.

Solid

This program is very unique with professors who truly care and invest in the students as well as strong development of peer-peer and staff-peer bonds. Overall very encouraging and inspiring.

I feel prepared to battle anything that comes my way in the future in the field.

Thanks for the great experience, I'm sad to leave.

You can never explain this program to anyone... explanation in words does not do it justice. Recreation major or not, anyone can learn life lessons and passion from our professors.

I am glad that I could join in this program. Although I was worried if I could fit in this program, everyone helped me and accepted me to do well. I want to share things I learned in this program to other people in my country.

it was an amazing experience and I really enjoyed every minute of it. Also I would like to say that I identify myself as an outdoor tourism emphasis

There are no words that could possibly encapsulate my experience in the Recreation program at Western Washington University. Most models of education teach students what a particular subject is, but the recreation department has not adopted this philosophy. Instead of simply learning what recreation is, I learned what recreation should be and feel empowered to enter the field as a recreation professional knowing that I have the skills and knowledge to create this necessary change. This is what higher education is about and I thank my professors who have enriched my life not only through their lessons, but by embodying the lessons they teach.

family

It's amazing! Some of the best experiences in my life happened with the Rec program. My personal growth level has rose immensely and I can proudly say that I'm confident going out into the world with what I've gained from the Rec program.

Couldn't imagine life without it. "The Phase" fostered much of my personal development/identity. I found the family atmosphere creates immense support throughout much of my school and personal situations.... Keep changing students' lives 60 at a time! Much love!