Recreation Program Graduation Survey Fall 2011

Prepared by

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Background Information
The purpose of the 2011 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 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 the NRPA Accreditation self-study report prepared for 2012. Faculty reviewed the survey and commented on the content and layout of the question and answers. A total of 56 students were identified as graduating students from the program. A total of 49 surveys were returned, yielding a response rate of 88%. 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.
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Figure 4. The skills and abilities, presented by percentages, that students experienced the most growth in their experience in the Recreation Program

- Working cooperatively in a group: 26.5%
- Organizational management and socially: 18.4%
- Using moral, philosophical or logical reasoning: 12.2%
- Critically analyzing written and other: 10.2%
- Writing effectively: 8.2%
- Working and/or learning independently: 8.2%
- Analyzing complex social and political issues: 8.2%
- Speaking effectively: 4.1%
- Identifying, analyzing and solving problems: 4.1%
- Working effectively with technology: 4.1%
- All Other Responses
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Figure 12. Demographics of students Phase IV 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average Age = 22.6 years**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/ethnicity (could check multiple identities)</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

I would not be the person I am today without the Recreation program. It has helped me develop my leadership skills ten-fold, something I didn't even know could happen. I love you all!

Overall amazing! The supportive community and important class material were wonderfully designed and implemented. I do feel like I could be more proficient in most areas, especially grant writing, but I feel like I got a great start and am set up to learn a lot in phase five! Thank you for the amazing experience!!

I'm gonna miss everyone!!!

Needs to be more practical. Less "fluff" and more realistic education. Practicality is key for the real world.

Life changing, SO glad that I discovered this program

It was a fantastic experience! Thank you for being amazing professors and human beings!

Absolutely incredible! Loved every second! (Sorry Keith! I had thought I had taken this survey!!!!)

This has been the most unique, engaging, and interactive educational experience I have ever been a part of. From the faculty, to the students, to the program structure, it is unlike anything I have ever seen or experienced in my life. The quality of the faculty and their devotion and passion for the great subject of Recreation & Leisure is what makes the curriculum come to life and gives it significance and meaning that the students can identify with and grow from. This program has changed my life in such a positive way, giving me direction and a career path, and I feel so fortunate and grateful to have been a part of such a wonderful experience.

I have underwent several academic programs over the years and found the recreation program to be the one to fully invest in and complete. The phase culture is one that I truly desire to promote and live out over the duration of my life. This program has truly left a substantially positive footprint in my soul that inspires me to play if forward with all of my heart.

I loved the recreation program. It has helped me learn not only about the field of recreation but myself as well. The people involved are insperational and supportive people. This program has made me a better person professionally as well as personally.

It is the most beautiful program I have ever been a part of. When the questions said which were the most important or which did I grow most in it was so difficult to pick just one. Thank you so much for everything you do for us, for the phase, and for the profession. I will miss this...

The biggest life changing event! Overall a great experience!!

The rec program has been amazing! Defiantly went beyond any expectations that I had coming into the phase. The rec program allowed me to grow and explore, and to truly discover my passions. I felt 100% supported every step of the way by my fellow phasers, staff, and of course the professors. If I hand't found the recreation program I probably wouldn't have finished college. The rec program is a 'gem'!

The education gained through the Recreation program is well rounded. It applies not only to our specific areas of expertise in the field, it focuses heavily on life education as well. It goes by too fast.

no

I loved it!!!! made some amazing friends and always felt like i wanted to come to class.

It was a great experience and I learned a lot of new things. All the things i learned throughout the all of the courses I'll be able to put into use as a future recreation professional. I feel more prepared and comfortable with the growth I've made.

It is a fantastic program! Thanks for the wonderful opportunities!

I wouldn't change this experience for anything.

GRRREEEAAATT!!

I love the Rec program and I appreciate everything you guys have done for me!! Many of the classes required me to step out of my comfort zone multiple times, which was awesome!! Presentations are no big thing now!! I feel like I am well prepared for my future. I never liked school until I found the Rec department. I really liked it how you all knew when we were stressed. You guys never cut down the work load (and I’m glad you didn’t) but you always understood and assured us we would get through it. The support from you guys as well as the support
from my classmates was unlike anything I could have asked for. Graduating from this phase is something I will always be proud of!! I love you guys and couldn’t be more thankful I was able to part of this program and phase!! Thank you!!

I will miss my professors. I will miss my classes. I like learning.

Loved this program!

The recreation program is designed well and has a great progression. That being said, I do believe that there needs to be more of a focus on a few specific elements. The program needs to be more academically challenging. A statistics class should be a prerequisite for the Program Evaluation course, in order to move through material more effectively. In addition, I think there should be more of a focus on Grant Writing, because of the importance of the topic. I also think that a more experiential learning environment could be helpful to those in the outdoor emphasis.

I cannot imagine college without it. Leaving the phase is very exciting because I will get to go apply what we've been learning but it's also bittersweet because I will miss this time of life. Philippians 1:4 reads "I thank my God every time I remember you" and that's how I will always feel about this program. Thanks for everything.

This is the most amazing program! The faculty nailed it!

The Phase has been an experience that can hardly be summed up in words. It drastically increased the quality of my life, my relationships, and my future career. Thank you so much for all that you have done, and more importantly for creating better people in this world.

The phase is a unique and special approach to learning. The community it creates is very important to the success of those who go through the recreation program. The phase demonstrates the importance and power of community and help develop networking skills that are necessary in the field of recreation.

I am so glad that I found this program because it has changed my life. I never knew that I could choose recreation as my path in life, and once I did I realized how important it was to other people's happiness. The phase system has been one of the greatest things I've ever been apart of, and something that's going to help me for years down the road through connections and networking. Thank you for all the professors who have helped me along the path and for becoming friends of mine, as well as being amazing advisors.

Life changing. Inspirational. Challenging. Its a Family and the best and most vibrant educational environment I have ever had.

I think the Recreation Program creates a bond that you don't want to see end. I personally feel I have grown as an individual because of the challenges, opportunities, and the people I have become friends with. The professors behind this program truly make this program the success that it is.

The Recreation program was the best decision I could have made for myself while at WWU. The relationships I made with the professors and colleagues made this experience an exceptional one. The comfort of the phase kept me engaged and interested in what we were learning. The passion each person has in this program is amazing and has truly inspired me to be a Recreation professional. This experience has been helpful me grow both professionally and individually. AMAZING!

The Phase and my experience in the Rec Program has brought out the true me. It has allowed me to come out of my shell that I've been stuck in for years. Phase I especially was one of the happiest times of my life. There is something so powerful about Rec Program. You just have to experience it as a whole. I could not have asked anything more. Thank you.

I feel that this program is amazing and amazing things happen here. We have great people who love what I love and there is a sense of community

there is SO MUCH I want to say.

1. the phase is amazing and the professors in the phase are one of a kind!
2. i think there should be more prerequisites in order to take certain classes in the phase. for example, i think it would benefit all students if some basic statistics class was required for program eval as well as an intro to economics class for budgeting. this would help class time be more focused on the new material instead of back-tracking to skills and knowledge college seniors should have
3. it would also be beneficial to either require a writing/library course prior to phase I OR runt he whole "introduction to the library system and search engines" in Phase I, not in Phase IV when over half the class is graduating and it is no longer useful information for us.

that's it. you all rock. yay Phase V!!!!!!