

LOCK HAVEN UNIVERSITY
LOCK HAVEN, PENNSYLVANIA

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION AND RESEARCH FOR RECREATION SERVICES:
METHOD AND DESIGN
RECR430

I. Introductory Information:

- A. Department Name: Recreation Management
- B. Department Catalog Number: RECR430
- C. Course Title: Assessment, Evaluation and Research for Recreation Services: Method and Design
- D. Semester Hours of Credit: 3
- E. Clock Hours per Week: 3
- F. Overlays: If approved, this course is designed to meet the writing emphasis and information literacy overlays.
- G. Restrictions Upon Student Registration: Restricted to recreation management majors participating in professional semester.

II. Description of the Course:

An explanation of the processes and methods of research and evaluation in recreation services. The course explores evaluation and research foundations, methods, design, and application. It is intended to serve as a foundation for students who need skills for program evaluation and to conduct research in the field. It is designed to meet the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) competencies for accreditation.

III. Exposition:

A. Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Explain the purpose and role of basic assessment, evaluation and research in the planning and management of recreation programs, organizations, and systems. (NRPA 8.25)
2. Identify the fundamentals of program evaluation and research design as applied to recreation programs, service delivery, and community needs. (NRPA 8.21, 8.23, 8.25, 8.27)
3. Evaluate and critique existing literature and research related to topics in recreation and leisure studies. (NRPA 8.25)
4. Interpret and apply basic traditions of inquiry in evaluation and research efforts to analyze recreation programs, organizations, and systems, as well as the recreation and leisure needs of communities. (NRPA 8.21, 8.22, 8.23, 8.25, 8.27, 8.28)
5. Explain, create, and utilize a variety of data collection instruments and techniques for assessment, research and evaluation purposes. (NRPA 8.22, 8.25, 8.27, 8.28)
6. Execute simple research and evaluation efforts. (NRPA 8.25, 8.28)
7. Effectively analyze data using various computer software packages. (NRPA 8.26, 8.36)
8. Practice ethical thinking and behavior in research and evaluation. (NRPA 8.10)
9. Interpret, communicate, and apply the results of basic research and evaluation studies. (NRPA 8.25, 8.35)

B. Activities and Requirements:

1. Quizzes and exams
2. Assigned readings
3. Class discussion and small-group work.
4. In-class assignments
5. Development of tools for data gathering
6. Research and evaluation project
7. Presentation of research and evaluation results
8. Exams

C. Major Units and Time Allotted:

1. Introduction to Course (1 hour)

2. Foundations of Research and Evaluation (NRPA 8.10, 8.22, 8.23, 8.25) (8 hours)
 - a. Introduction to Evaluation and Research
 - b. Uses of Evaluation and Research
 - c. The Research/Evaluation Process
 - d. The Structure of Research and Evaluation
 - e. Research and Evaluation Design
 - f. Ethics in Research and Evaluation
 - g. IRB Procedures
 3. Literature Review (NRPA 8.25) (3 hours)
 - a. Analysis and Critique of Existing Literature
 - b. Exploring Evaluation and Research Resources
 4. Problem Formulation (NRPA 8.25) (3 hours)
 - a. Deduction and Induction
 - b. Conceptualization of Problem Statement
 - c. Writing Research Questions
 - d. Understanding Variables
 5. Traditions of Inquiry (NRPA 8.23, 8.25, 8.27) (9 hours)
 - a. Positivistic Inquiry
 - b. Naturalistic Inquiry
 6. Data Gathering (NRPA 8.21, 8.22, 8.23, 8.25, 8.26, 8.27, 8.35) (14 hours)
 - a. Survey Development
 - b. Data Collection
 - c. Data Analysis
 - d. Reliability and Validity
 7. Results (NRPA 8.25) (6 hours)
 - a. Discussion
 - b. Meaning
 - c. Application
 - d. Recommendations
 8. Presentation of Results (NRPA 8.25) (1 hour)
- D. Materials and Bibliography:**
1. Suggested textbook:

Mitra, A. & Lankford, S. (1999). *Research methods in park, recreation, and leisure services*. Champaign, IL: Sagamore.

Wagenaar, T.C. & Babbie, E. (2004). *Guided activities for the practice of social research* (10th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

2. Other materials:

None

3. Bibliographic support:

American Psychological Association (2002). *APA Manual* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Babbie, E. (1990). *Survey research design* (2nd ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Babbie, E. (2003). *The practice of social research* (10th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Blalock, H.M. (1972). *Social statistics* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Cresswell, J.W. (1998). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five traditions*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Hart, C. (1999). *Doing a literature review: Releasing the social science imagination*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Malkin, M. & Howe, C. (Eds). (1993). *Research in therapeutic recreation: Concepts and methods*. State College, PA: Venture.

Patton, M. Q. (1990). *Qualitative evaluation and research methods* (2nd ed.). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Pyrczak, F. & Bruce, R.R. (2003). *Writing empirical research reports* (4th ed.). Los Angeles, CA: Pyrczak Publishing.

Research Methods Knowledge Base at
<http://trochim.human.cornell.edu/kb/>

Riddick, C.C. & Russell, R.V. (1999). *Evaluative research in Recreation, park, and sport settings: Searching for useful information*. Champaign, IL: Sagamore.

Riley, B. (1987). *Evaluation of therapeutic recreation through quality assurance*. State College, PA: Venture.

IV. Standards :

Grades will be assigned in accordance with the grading policies of the University and will be based on the quality of work demonstrated by the students in meeting the course requirements. Students in this course will be graded primarily on issue papers, presentations, and class participation.

V. Rationale and Impact :

- A. This course is designed to meet the professional needs of leisure and recreation professional as they enter the workforce. Skills and knowledge for program evaluation and research efforts are an important part of understanding client and community needs, program efficacy, and societal trends.
- B. This course is designed for recreation management majors in their professional semester.
- C. Existing academic programs or departments will not be affected by this proposal.

VI. Cost and Staff Analysis :

- A. There is no additional faculty cost anticipated with this course. This course will be offered within the current scope of faculty load with the department.
- B. The expected frequency and the rotation of the course will be once during the fall semester and once during the spring semester.

VII. Date approved by University president :

Signature of the President

Date