January 7, 2009

To: Debra Friedman, Dean
    College of Public Programs

Afsaneh Nahavandi, Associate Dean
College of Public Programs

From: Kathleen Andereck, Director
School of Community Resources and Development

Carlton Yoshioka, Director
Parks and Recreation Management Program, SCRD

Re: Concentration in Therapeutic Recreation

Attached is the proposal to establish a concentration in Therapeutic Recreation (TR) which will fall under the Parks and Recreation Management (PRM) major in the School of Community Resources and Development. The curriculum development form, including input from three other units, was approved in October 2008. This followed approval of a B.S. degree in Recreation Therapy within ASU’s academic plan approved by ABOR last year. The faculty determined a concentration is more reasonable and manageable than an entire degree program, and approval was given by Glenn Irvin, Senior Associate President for Academic Affairs (see attached email) and the Provost’s Academic Council for this change.

This proposal has the support of the faculty in the School. It was reviewed and approved by the PRM faculty at our annual retreat in August. Because the concentration does not require additional resources or new classes, we are able to support it within our existing curriculum and with existing faculty. It will not negatively impact our core course resources. It is our hope that by offering TR as a concentration we will be able to increase its visibility and thereby increase the number of students interested in this important subfield of recreation.
Proposal for a Concentration in Therapeutic Recreation
School of Community Resources and Development

Demand for the program

The Therapeutic Recreation (TR) program has been offered at ASU for at least 25 years as an emphasis area. It is the only program in Arizona that prepares students for national professional certification in Therapeutic Recreation. It attracts students and professionals who have interests in providing therapeutic interventions and adaptive recreation services for individuals with social problems, illnesses and disabling conditions. The demand for the Therapeutic Recreation emphasis within the Parks and Recreation Management degree has not grown as much as expected, and as a result we would like to highlight the program by making it a concentration. We have about 15 students in the emphasis but we anticipate substantially more interest if the program a clear and obvious choice within the degree. The development of a concentration in Therapeutic Recreation will improve visibility of the program and attract new students with an interest in TR.

Although the concentration will not affect other programs, the development of a concentration is likely to increase student enrollment. Currently, there are fifteen students enrolled in the emphasis area. Although this program is located within a recreation program, the field of Therapeutic Recreation is recognized nationally as both a recreation and allied health profession. Improved visibility is expected to increase the enrollment among students who have an interest in human services and health professions. Three of the Therapeutic Recreation courses are currently offered online. This has allowed for improved accessibility to students who seek Therapeutic Recreation coursework. There is a high potential for additional coursework to be offered online as the need for credentialed professionals in the state rises and ASU remains the only academic program in the state. There is also interest from students in other states for online offerings so they may complete their requirements for certification.

There are a range of job opportunities for TR professionals ranging from clinical settings such as hospitals and nursing homes to adventure programming for youth at risk and people with disabilities. The diversity of opportunities makes TR an appealing option within the PRM major. Students who choose this area of concentration are truly committed to improving people's lives and contributing to their communities.

Requirements for the concentration

This proposed program will not offer a new set of skills and knowledge, however it will formalize a current emphasis area into an area of concentration and improve visibility of the program. A concentration in Therapeutic Recreation will provide students with an academic option to study in-depth the therapeutic value of recreation and gain knowledge of the importance of parks and recreation in building healthy communities. The concentration will prepare students to serve our community by developing and providing recreation programs to address major health issues related to a lack of recreation participation among those with disabilities, illness, or social problems.
The concentration will require 24 credit hours. All of these courses are already offered by the School and will simply be repackaged into a concentration.

The coursework included in the concentration is that which is required for profession certification with the PRM major:

PRM 364 Foundations of Therapeutic Recreation (3 cr.)
PRM 400 Processes & Techniques in Therapeutic Recreation (3 cr.)
PRM 406 Program Design & Evaluation in Therapeutic Recreation (3 cr.)
PRM 460 Assessment and Documentation in Therapeutic Recreation (3 cr.)
PRM 463 Senior Internship (12 cr.)

Primary faculty

Kelly Ramella, Lecturer, CTRS (Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist)
Ariel Rodriguez, Assistant Professor

Residency

Of the 15 required credits, 9 and the internship must be taken at ASU.