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## Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** Proposed Revisions to the Master of Science Curriculum in the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism (RST), College of Applied Health Sciences (AHS)

**SPONSOR:** Cary McDonald, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in Recreation, Sport and Tourism, 244-5817, [carym@illinois.edu](mailto:carym@illinois.edu)

**COLLEGE CONTACT:** Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, Professor, 244-0823, [wojtek@illinois.edu](mailto:wojtek@illinois.edu)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** Proposed changes to the RST Master of Science Curriculum (See Appendix A)

### Thesis Option

1. Remove RST 503--Advanced Leisure Research Methods, 4 credit hours as a requirement in the core—replace with a core course of equal level and credit (RST 512-- Managing RST Organizations, 4 credit hours; RST 515-- Marketing in RST, 4 credit hours; or RST 516-- Finance & Budgeting in RST, 4 credit hours).
2. Remove RST 590--Seminar, 0 credit hours as a requirement in the core—no replacement.
3. Reduce RST 599--Thesis Research from 8 to 4 credit hours—replace with a core course of equal level and credit (RST 512-- Managing RST Organizations, 4 credit hours; RST 515-- Marketing in RST, 4 credit hours; or RST 516-- Finance & Budgeting in RST, 4 credit hours); increases the core requirements from 12 to 16 credit hours.
4. Specify the 16 credit hours of additional coursework—8 credit hours to support an option area and 8 credit hours to support research methods.

Overall, total credit hours (36 credit hours) do not change; core coursework increases from 12 to 16 credit hours; additional coursework remains the same (16 credit hours); and RST 599—Thesis Research hours decrease from 8 to 4 credit hours.

### Non-Thesis Option

1. Remove RST 503--Advanced Leisure Research Methods, 4 credit hours as a requirement in the core—replace with a core course of equal level and credit (RST 594SM-- Special Topics-Strategic Mgmt, 4 credit hours).
2. Remove RST 590--Seminar, 0 credit hours as a requirement in the core—no replacement.

3. Remove RST 593--Special Problems Professional Paper, 4 credits as a requirement—replace with a course to support an option area of equal level and credit; increases additional coursework to support an option area from 8 to 12 credit hours.

Overall, total credit hours (36 credit hours) do not change; core coursework credit hours remain the same (24 credit hours); additional coursework to support an option area increases from 8 to 12 credit hours while RST 593—Special Problems Professional Paper is removed.

#### **JUSTIFICATION:**

It has been nearly ten years since the department conducted an extensive review of the Master of Science curriculum. One of the Department's goals identified in the Strategic Plan for the 2013-2014 academic year was to conduct a comprehensive review of the Master of Science curriculum and revise as needed. The Department's Graduate Studies Committee was charged with this task. The Committee conducted the review and discussed proposed revisions with the departmental faculty at the end of the Spring 2014 semester. The faculty voted unanimously to support the recommended revisions.

The proposed changes to the Master of Science curriculum focus primarily on assuring that graduates of the program have the management competencies to deliver leisure services in the recreation, sport and tourism industry and be competitive in the job market. Both thesis and non-thesis students select one of three options (recreation, sport, or tourism) and set up their program of study and coursework for the selected option. For the thesis option, decreasing the number of thesis hours (RST 599, from 8 to 4 credit hours) and removing RST 503--Advanced Leisure Research Methods (4 credit hours) from the core would free 8 credit hours that would be applied toward management courses in the core—increasing the management related courses from two to four courses. Additionally, specifying that 8 of the 16 credit hours of additional coursework be dedicated to research methods enhances the student's research competencies. The non-thesis option has a strong management core that would be enhanced with the removal of RST 503--Advanced Leisure Research Methods (4 credit hours) and the addition of a strategic management course (RST 594SM, 4 credit hours). RST 594SM will be taught as a capstone course that will replace the current capstone course (RST 593--Special Problems Professional Paper, 4 credit hours). Furthermore, by removing the professional paper requirement (RST 593), additional coursework to support an option area would increase from 8 to 12 hours, and permit students an opportunity to enhance their particular area of interest (option area) in recreation, sport or tourism.

#### **BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

- 1) Resources
  - a. How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal? **There are no additional costs associated with the proposal—the courses are already being taught by the faculty. The proposed revisions to the curriculum will not require additional financial resources or staffing.**
  - b. How will the unit create capacity or surplus to appropriately resource this program? If applicable, what functions or programs will the unit no longer support to create capacity? **There is no need beyond the current allocations to appropriately resource the program.**
  - c. Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources? If so, please provide a summary of the sources and an indication of the approved support. **No.**

- d. Please provide a letter of acknowledgment from the college that outlines the financial arrangements for the proposed program. **Not requested, since there was no change in the current financial arrangements needed to support the proposed curriculum revisions.**
- 2) Resource Implications
- a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc. **No additional staff is needed. The current staff, class size, teaching loads, and student-faculty ratios are expected to remain unchanged. All proposed program requirements are currently being covered in full by the current faculty.**
  - b. Please address the impact on course enrollment in other units and provide an explanation of discussions with representatives of those units. **There should be no effects on course enrollment in other units, as proposed changes are department specific. The vast majority of courses are taken within the department, so the effects on other departments are expected to be negligible, no change from the current level.**
  - c. Please address the impact on the University Library. **There is no need for additional library acquisitions, as current resources are adequate to accommodate student needs.**
  - d. Please address the impact on technology and space (e.g. computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.) **Technology and space needs are not affected by the proposed curriculum changes. There will be no additional need beyond the current technology provisions and space allocations. No new equipment or new facilities are required.**

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Fall 2015

**STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:**

## **Recreation, Sport & Tourism**

[www.rst.illinois.edu](http://www.rst.illinois.edu)

Head of the Department: Laurence Chalip  
Director of Graduate Studies: Cary McDonald  
Graduate Coordinator: Ryan Latvaitis  
104 Huff Hall  
1206 South Fourth Street  
Champaign, IL 61821  
(217) 333-4410  
E-mail: [carym@illinois.edu](mailto:carym@illinois.edu) or [latvaitis@illinois.edu](mailto:latvaitis@illinois.edu)

**Major:** Recreation, Sport & Tourism  
**Degrees Offered:** M.S., Ph.D.  
**Online Program:** Recreation, Sport & Tourism  
**Degrees Offered:** M.S.

## **Graduate Degree Programs**

The Department of Recreation, Sport & Tourism offers programs of study leading to the Master of Science and the Doctor of Philosophy degrees. The Master of Science program educates students about leisure behavior, public parks and recreation systems, sport and tourism, in various private and semipublic settings providing leisure services. The M.S. degree may be undertaken as a terminal professional track program or serve as the first step toward the Ph.D. program. The Ph.D. program is, in general, designed to develop educators and research personnel in the study of leisure behavior, the management of recreation, tourism, and sport systems that provide leisure services, or both.

## **Admission**

The Graduate College admission requirements apply. Specifically, the admission requirements are a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (A = 4.0) for the last two years of undergraduate work and any graduate work completed. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required for all graduate degrees. A minimum score of 610 is required on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) (253 on the computer-based test). Students are also required to provide a statement of purpose outlining their area of study, and three letters of reference. Preference is given to applicants who will be full-time students and active degree candidates. Students may be admitted for the fall, spring, or summer semesters.

## **Degree Requirements**

\*For additional details and requirements for all degrees, please refer to the department's [Graduate Degree Requirements Handbook](#) and the [Graduate College Handbook](#).

## Master of Science

<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>Thesis Option Required Hours</b>	<b>Non-thesis Option Required Hours</b>
RST 501	4	4
RST 512, 515, 516, 594SM		16
RST 512, 515, 516 (select 2)	8	
Option Area Coursework (Select 1 Option Area Course--RST 502, 520, or 530)	4	4
Additional Coursework		
Support Option Area	8	12
Research Methods	8	
Thesis Hours Required—RST 599 (min/max applied toward degree)	4	
<b>Total Hours</b>	36	36
Minimum Hours Overall Required Within the Unit	12 at the 500 level	12 at the 500 level
Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall	16	16
<b>Other Requirements</b>		
Minimum GPA	3.00	3.00

A candidate for the M.S. degree must spend at least one semester on campus. A full-time student can complete the program in three or four semesters.

## Doctor of Philosophy

Required Courses	Required Hours
RST 550 and 551	8
RST 590 (required every semester on campus)	0
Department coursework to support specialization	12
Coursework outside department to support specialization	16
Advanced research methods to support specialization	12
Thesis Hours Required—RST 599 (min/max applied toward degree):	32
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Other Requirements:</b>	
Two years in residence	
Minimum GPA:	3.0
Masters Degree Required for Admission to PhD?	Yes
Qualifying Exam Required	No
Preliminary Exam Required	Yes
Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required	Yes
Dissertation Deposit Required	Yes

Departmental requirements include satisfactory performance on the written preliminary examination at the completion of formal coursework, the oral preliminary examination on the proposed research for the thesis, and a final examination in defense of the doctoral thesis.

### Online Program

See requirements above for non-thesis option of the Master of Science.

### Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience in this program. It is also anticipated that doctoral students will engage in research activities and scholarly communication under the guidance of their Advisor.

### Financial Aid

The department offers quarter-time and half-time assistantships in teaching, administration, and research, as well as tuition and fee waivers and the opportunity to apply for fellowships.

**CLEARANCES:**

Signatures:

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Unit Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
College Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

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Graduate College Representative:

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Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council on Teacher Education Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

**Appendix A:  
Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism  
Master of Science Degree Curriculum Revisions**

**Thesis Option**

Current Curriculum		Proposed Curriculum	
Current Coursework	Required Hours	Proposed Coursework	Required Hours
<b>Core Coursework (12 hours)</b>		<b>Core Coursework (16 hours)</b>	
RST 501	4	RST 501	4
RST 503	4	RST 512, 515, 516 (select 2)	8
RST 590	0	Option Area Course(RST 502, 520 or 530—select 1)	4
Option Area Course (RST 502, 520 or 530—select 1))	4		
<b>Additional Coursework (16 hours)</b>	16	<b>Additional Coursework (16 hours)</b>	16
		Support Option—8 hours	
		Research Methods—8 hours	
<b>Thesis (8 hours)</b>		<b>Thesis (4 hours)</b>	
RST 599	8	RST 599	4
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>36</b>

**Non-Thesis Option**

Current Curriculum		Proposed Curriculum	
Current Coursework	Required Hours	Proposed Coursework	Required Hours
<b>Core Coursework (24 hours)</b>		<b>Core Coursework (24 hours)</b>	
RST 501	4	RST 501	4
RST 503	4	RST 512	4
RST 512	4	RST 515	4
RST 515	4	RST 516	4
RST 516	4	RST 594SM	4
RST 590	0	Option Area Course (RST 502, 520 or 530—select 1)	4
Option Area Course (RST 502, 520 or 530—select 1)	4		
<b>Additional Coursework (8 hours)</b>	8	<b>Additional Coursework (12 hours)</b>	12
<b>Professional Paper (4 hours)</b>			
RST 593	4		
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>36</b>

**RST Course Titles**

RST 501 Concepts & Applications in RST  
RST 502 Critical Issues in Recreation Mgmt  
RST 503 Advanced Leisure Research Methods  
RST 512 Managing RST Organizations  
RST 515 Marketing in RST  
RST 516 Finance & Budgeting in RST

RST 520 Critical Issues in Sport Mgmt  
RST 530 Critical Issues in Tourism Mgmt  
RST 590 Seminar  
RST 593 Special Problems Professional Paper  
RST 594SM Special Topics-Strategic Mgmt  
RST 599 Thesis Research