

Assessment of Student Learning Plan: **Recreation & Leisure Studies**

Review of 2012-13 Academic Year

University of Southern Maine

A. College, Department or Program, Date

College **__ College of Science, Technology, and Health**
Department or Program **__ Recreation & Leisure Studies**
Date **__ May 31, 2013 _____**

B. Department or Program Chair: **__ Dr. William T. McCullough, Ed.D,** CTRS _____

**(person responsible for completing this form)*

C. Degree or other Program: **__ B.S. in Therapeutic Recreation, recently changed to** **B.S. in Recreation & Leisure Studies**

D. Assessment of Student Learning

1: Has your department identified any Student Learning Outcomes? (What are students able to do by the end of your program?)

- a. *List the most important student learning outcomes (3-5) that have been agreed upon in your department. Then, identify which student learning outcome (1-2) was assessed this past year. See Appendix A for definitions and examples.*
- b. *If your department/program does NOT have any student learning outcome statements yet, please check here **__X__**.*

2: How and When will the Learning Outcomes be assessed?

- a. *Briefly describe the forms of evidence that were utilized this past year to demonstrate students' accomplishment of the learning outcome(s) selected, and when you implemented the assessment. See Appendix A for definitions and examples.*
- b. *If your department/program did NOT assess any outcomes in the past year, please check here **__X__**.*

3: How did you use the Assessment results to Improve Student Learning?

- a. *Briefly describe your unit's process for using the assessment data to improve student learning, and state what improvements or changes are being planned based upon the assessment results. See Appendix A for definitions and examples.*

- b. *If your department has NOT reviewed any assessment results in the past year, please check here X .*

Comments: You will note that the department did not, as a department, identify or assess Student Learning Outcomes this past academic year. This is not to say individual faculty did not identify and assess learning outcomes in their respective courses, without exception all did. The overarching outcome for our majors is that they be eligible to sit for the national exam to become a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) upon graduation (the department recently concluded a three year period where 100% of our graduates passed the national exam on the first attempt while the national average hovered around 70%). Within our courses there are specific learning outcomes regarding assessing client needs, developing appropriate therapeutic plans, implementing such plans, and evaluating results as well as other outcomes reflecting the broad knowledge base needed to become a CTRS.

During this past academic year our department lost 50% of its full time faculty. Beginning the year with four tenured faculty, one faculty member retired at the end of the fall semester and a second retired at the end of the spring semester. With neither faculty being replaced the focus of the department has become the delivery of courses needed to complete the education of those students enrolled and to plan for the needs of the incoming students next fall. It is unclear if the department will remain a department or if it will become a sub-set of another department. Discussions will continue this summer.

I would be happy to answer any questions in the short term. However my role as Department Chair ended May 31st. Please address any questions moving forward to either Dr. Nancy Richeson or Dr. David Jones, co-chairs of the department for the summer or until administrative issues are resolved.