

Recreation and Sport Management

Program Coordinator

Busser, James A. (1987), Professor; B.S., Illinois State University; M.S., Ph.D., University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Graduate Faculty

Carruthers, Cynthia P. (1990), Associate Professor; B.S., M.S., Ph.D., University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Livengood, Jennifer (2007), Assistant Professor; B.A., Southern Illinois University; MSW, Ph.D., University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

McLean, Daniel (2007), Professor; B.A., Sacramento State College; M.A., Brigham Young University; Ph.D., Kansas State University.

Peterson, Carol (2002), B.S., University of Illinois; M.A., San Jose State University; Ed.D., Columbia University.

Stahura, Kurt (2004); Assistant Professor; B.A., University of Wisconsin; M.A., Ph.D., University of Minnesota.

Recreation and Sport Management offers a program of study that provides students with the theory, knowledge, and skills needed to assume management positions in sport and leisure service agencies. A variety of organizations across the country have a need for qualified management personnel who also possess a theoretical background in sport and leisure behavior. Successful management of sport and leisure services is predicated on acquiring three areas of knowledge. First is a theoretical foundation in sport and leisure behavior. This background enables the manager to understand the motivations, expectations, and satisfactions of the participant and spectator and to incorporate these into events, programs, and services. Second is an understanding of management techniques specific to the delivery of sport and leisure service. These include a thorough background in the management, development, and operation of sport and leisure service delivery systems, facilities, programs, and ancillary services. Third is a research/analysis component that is designed to prepare the student to evaluate programs and services as well as analyze and interpret complex information. This component prepares the student for data based management applications and problem-solving techniques.

An important aspect of the degree program is the opportunity to develop a specialization in either Sport or Leisure Service Management. Specializations provide additional focused study that enable students to prepare for a career in a specific programmatic or organizational setting. The majority of the courses included in a specialization are selected in consultation with the student's advisor. Specialization courses may be selected to expand the student's knowledge in law and liability in sport and leisure, athletic administration, finance, budgeting, marketing, leisure needs assessment, program design and operation, program evaluation, and other courses pertinent to the specialized management of sport and leisure. Opportunities for individualized study of special topics and internships in sport and leisure service agencies also further individualize the student's preparation.

Successfully completing the program of study will result in conferral of the Master of Science degree in Sport and Leisure Service Management. Graduates of this program find employment with organizations providing professional, collegiate, and amateur sports; community, therapeutic, outdoor, and commercial recreation; and health and fitness services.

Master of Science in Sport and Leisure Service Management

Admission Requirements

Applicants must submit the following information for admission:

1. Application for admission.
2. Complete transcripts from all institutions attended. An overall undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or 3.00 (based on a 4.00 system) during the last 60 credits of undergraduate work.
3. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. A minimum score of 450 in each of the GRE sections of verbal, quantitative, and analytical is expected.
4. Two letters of recommendation. These letters should be from individuals who know the student's academic capabilities and can predict success in graduate school.
5. A one-page statement describing the applicant's goals and reasons for seeking graduate education in sport and leisure service management.
6. Current resumé.
7. A bachelor's degree with a major or minor in Leisure Studies, Recreation, Sport Management or a closely related field. Applicants not meeting this criterion may be required to take prescribed deficiency undergraduate courses.

Applicants who do not meet the above minimum GPA or GRE test score requirements may be admitted as Provisional Graduate Students.

Transfer of Credit

Nine credits of relevant graduate courses taken prior to admission to the Sport and Leisure Service Management degree may be accepted toward the student's official graduate program. These credits may be from another accredited university or from UNLV. However, the hours transferred must be: 1) graduate level, 2) received a grade of A or B (B- is not acceptable), 3) appropriate to the proposed degree, and 4) approved by the student's advisor and the Graduate Coordinator, and, 5) taken within the allowable six-year time limit on all course work. Additional graduate credits may be petitioned for transfer.

Progression of Graduate Program

Prior to completing 16 hours of graduate credit, the student in consultation with his/her advisor, will file a Graduate Degree Program. This program is a contract that specifies the courses necessary to obtain the master's degree. Any changes in the official program must be made on a Change of Degree Program form, approved by the advisor and graduate coordinator, and submitted to the Graduate College.

Concurrent with the filing of the Official Graduate Program, the student's Graduate Examination Committee is appointed. The committee consists of three graduate faculty members from the department and one outside graduate faculty member (usually from an appropriate cognate area in which the student has taken classes). Generally, the advisor serves as the committee chair.

Each master's degree candidate must complete a thesis or professional paper. In either case, a prospectus will be presented to the Examination Committee. After approval of the prospectus, the student may proceed with the project. Upon completion of the thesis or paper, the written document is provided to the Examination Committee members at least two weeks prior to an oral presentation and defense of the work before this group. Both the thesis and professional paper should adhere to the American Psychological Association's current Publication Manual regarding writing style and format. Copies of the completed thesis must also meet the Graduate College guidelines and be deposited according to published timelines. Professional papers must be bound and copies provided to the department office and advisor.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Science degree in Sport and Leisure Service Management requires a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours. Students are required to complete a nine-credit department core, a twelve-credit research/analysis requirement, and elect a fifteen-credit specialization in either Sport Management or Leisure Service Management. The courses required are specified below:

Department Core - 9 credits

SLS 702	Management in Sport and Leisure Service Organizations	3
SLS 703	Management Analysis of Sport and Leisure Service Organizations	3
SLS 716	Social Psychology of Sport and Leisure	3

Research/Analysis Requirement - 12 credits

The following six credits are required of all students:

HOA 735	Research Methods	3
HOA 730	Statistical Analysis in Hospitality and Leisure Studies	3
Students must elect one of the following two options:		
SLS 748	Professional Paper and one additional research or analytical course approved by the student's advisor	3
OR		
SLS 749	Thesis	3

Specialization - 15 credits

Students must elect one of the following two options:

Sport Management

SLS 704	Management Internship	3
Nine additional credits approved by the student's advisor		9
SLS 717	Law and Liability in Sport and Leisure Services	3

Leisure Service Management

SLS 718	Programming in Sport and Leisure Service Organizations and 12 additional credits approved by the student's advisor	12
---------	--	----

Sports and Leisure Service

SLS 700 3 credits

Special Problems in Sport and Leisure

Specialized instruction and/or research designed to develop depth in understanding a current problem in sport and leisure. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

SLS 701 1-3 credits

Independent Study

Independent study of a selected topic in sport or leisure service management or leisure behavior. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

SLS 702 3 credits

Management in Sport and Leisure Service Organizations

Utilizes management theory in conjunction with theory of sport and leisure behavior to develop a philosophy of administration applicable to sport and leisure service organizations.

SLS 703 3 credits

Management Analysis of Sport and Leisure Service Organizations

Analysis of how the financial resources needed to operate sport and leisure service facilities and programs are acquired and marshaled to realize organizational goals. Marketing strategies and revenue source specific to sport and leisure services analyzed and discussed. Prerequisite: SLS 702.

SLS 704 3 credits

Management Internship

Structured management internship in a sport or leisure service organization which focuses on specific administrative functions under the supervision of an agency manager and a university advisor. Prerequisites: SLS 703 and approval of student's advisor.

SLS 716 3 credits

Social Psychology of Sport and Leisure

Introduces and examines the theories of sport and leisure behavior from a social psychological perspective. Issues and outcomes of involvement in sport and leisure activities for the individual as well as organized groups.

SLS 717 3 credits

Law and Liability in Sport and Leisure Services

Explores the legal principles and rules of law affecting the administration of recreation, sports and athletic programs. Emphasis on risk management theory, safety principles, insurance concepts and liability issues. Litigation trends identified and procedures outlined to minimize legal risks.

SLS 718 3 credits

Programming for Sport and Leisure Service Organizations

Theoretical and conceptual aspects of comprehensive programming for sport and leisure service organizations. Includes program development theories, program design concepts, advertising, promotion and evaluation procedures.

SLS 748 3 credits

Professional Paper

Under the direction of a faculty advisor, the student develops a written treatise detailing the application of a principle or theory to the solution of a current problem of professional practice in the management of sport and leisure service. S/F grading only. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

SLS 749 3 credits

Thesis

Under the direction of a faculty advisor, students develop a written treatise detailing their methodical investigation and exposition of a theory or principle related to the management of sport and leisure service. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. S/F grading only. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

The following undergraduate course, if not previously taken, and if taught by a graduate faculty member, has been approved for use in graduate programs. Extra projects are assigned for graduate credit and these projects must be filed with the graduate coordinator. A full descriptions of this course may be found in the *Undergraduate Catalog* under the corresponding 400 number.

SLS 650 Administration of Recreation and Leisure Services