

# Recreation Studies

## Department Overview

The Department of Recreation Studies offers a two-year Recreation Leadership Diploma and a Bachelor of Recreation Management. The Diploma prepares students for employment in the field of Leisure and Recreation. Program graduates can progress into the Bachelor of Recreation Management as third-year students.

The Bachelor of Recreation Management is a degree-completion program (third and fourth year of a bachelor's degree) for students who hold an academic credential (a recognized diploma or degree from a post-secondary institution) or 60-credits of university transferrable credits and are interested in pursuing careers in Recreation. The program is flexible, student-focused and combines a solid foundation in management theory and practical knowledge with specialized recreation courses.

## Self-Study

Recreation Studies launched its program review in academic year 2018/19 with a Self-Study. The Self-Study team included:

- Erin Wilkins (Department Chair)
- Emma Courtney (Instructional Assistant)
- Cyndy Chwelos, (Instructor and Program Coordinator for the Bachelor of Recreation Management)
- Vivian Feng (Subject Librarian)
- Yue-Ching Cheng (Instructor, and Program Coordinator for Recreation Leadership Diploma)
- June Parnell, (Program Review Facilitator, TCDC)
- Jim Bowers (Division Chair, Community Programs)
- Jacqueline Bradshaw (Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Community Programs)
- Institutional Research analysts

Data sources for the Self-Study included:

- Institutional Research-compiled student administrative data (*e.g.*, headcounts, retention, satisfaction)
- Student survey
- Alumni survey
- Industry/Program Advisory Committee survey

The Self-Study was completed in September 2019.

## External Review

Recreation Studies' External Review took place on November 15, 2019. The External Review Team consisted of:

- Craig Cameron, PhD, University of Alberta (External Review Team Chair)
- Allyson Friesen, BPE, MA, MCIP, RPP, Principal, Kais Consulting
- Diane Thompson, Library & Information Technology, Langara

## Action Plan Goals

In response to the Self-Study and External Review, the Department of Recreation Studies created an Action Plan with the following goals:

- Goal 1: Develop an ongoing curriculum renewal and assessment process.

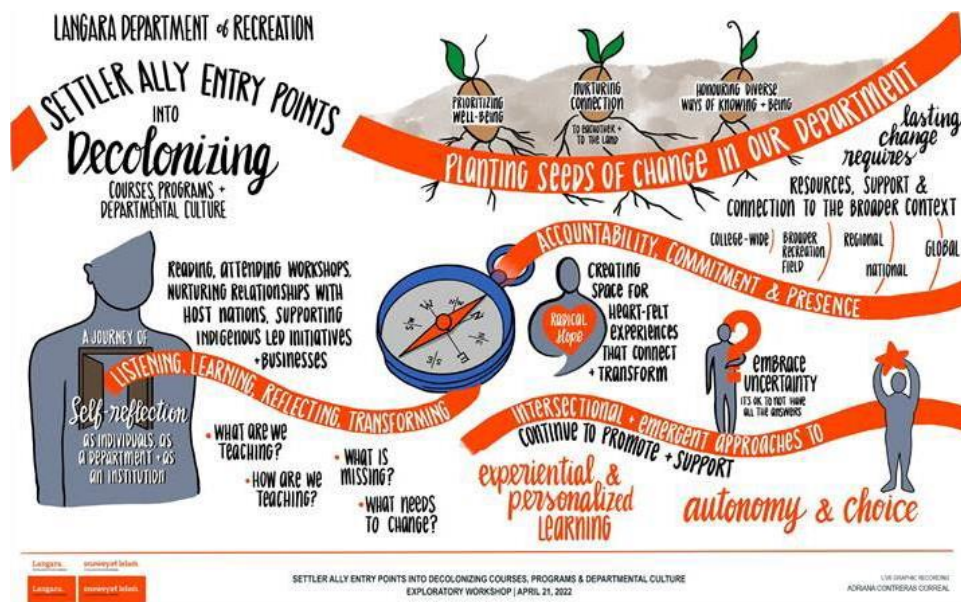
- Goal 2: Continue to expand awareness and inclusiveness of Indigenous world-view.
- Goal 3: Continue to expand awareness and inclusiveness of intercultural world-views.
- Goal 4: Review and explore new experiential learning opportunities and build partnerships within the college and community to support student experiential learning.
- Goal 5: Continue to facilitate the success of students and faculty/staff.
- Goal 6: Continue to improve program communications, marketing and recruitment for ongoing development of environmental, financial, and social sustainability.

## Examples of Post-Review Successes

### 2021/22

Recreation Studies faculty Shannon Wall and Janet Ready undertook a Departmental Research project that explored the value and process of experiential learning in on-line courses. Within this project, Recreation Studies faculty and faculty in other Disciplines at Langara were asked to share their knowledge and experiences designing, implementing and evaluating experiential learning within an on-line environment. These conversations and this research created an opportunity to share and grow partnerships and ideas within the college to support student experiential learning. This project will build on the current curriculum inventory of experiential learning opportunities within Recreation Studies.

In addition, the department has done a considerable amount of work on the decolonization and Indigenization of the Recreation Studies Department and curriculum. In an effort to disrupt colonial written reporting styles, the department chose to summarize their work through a graphic recording.



### 2022/23

Emma Courtney pursued an engagement project working with the Musqueam community. Working with Courtney Gibson, Manager-Recreation Services, Musqueam Nation, the project partnered with the Musqueam Recreation Department to investigate ways in which Langara Recreation Studies could contribute to capacity building in the Nation with Musqueam youth and recreation training opportunities.

The department looked to find ways to authentically engage students in the use of AI so that it prepares students for employment while operating with Academic Integrity. Janet Ready and Shannon Wall led a research project to investigate how Artificial Intelligence was being incorporated into pedagogy and curriculum across the College to help the department understand best practices and provide a direction moving forward on how to engage students authentically. The findings were shared with the department, and the department meeting in April 2023 was dedicated as a workshop to discussing the role of AI in RECR courses, and how the Department wants to move forward with AI.

In 2022/2023 academic year, Recreation Studies students travelled abroad to Dublin, Ireland as part of a COIL-EX experience connected to their COIL-VE project in RECR 2388 and RECR 2487. Students met their COIL-VE peers at Technological University of Dublin (TUD) in the Fall 2022 semester, and worked on collaborative projects through that semester and into Spring 2023. During the reading break in February 2023, 8 students physically went to Dublin to meet their TUD project partners for cultural exchanges. Several academic activities, site visits, and cultural activities were planned with the group across the week. The trip was supported by Global Skills Opportunity funding and support from Career and Co-Op (CCDC) and the Centre for Intercultural Engagement (CIE).

The Department also pursued Work Integrated Learning grant funding, resulting in \$32,000 for Diploma students in the Spring 2023 semester. The funding supported student activities in RECR 1168 where groups planned and executed special events for community partners, and students in RECR 1270 were supported in a new mini-practicum opportunity with the City of Vancouver. In addition, some students were supported in travel/accommodations/registration fees in attending and presenting their research/recommendations in an industry conference in Penticton in April 2023.

### **2023/24**

Two additional courses were identified by the Department as opportunities to explore PLAR-eligibility. A meeting was held with the guidance of a TCDC advisor in leading the Department through exercises that explored faculty members reservations about PLAR, and examination of course learning outcomes to determine the appropriateness of PLAR-eligibility.

Additional PAC members were identified for finding diverse representatives – the PAC is now representative of rural/urban, municipal and non-profit, and consists of a range of professionals including graduates and non-RECR committee members.

The department also developed stronger relationships with the Vancouver School Board with several high school presentations in Spring 2024.