

**Appendix 9a: Modifications to Existing Degree Program Proposal  
(Renaming)**

<b>Institution:</b>			
<b>Date of Implementation:</b>	<b>Present Six Digit CIP Code(s):</b>	<b>New Six Digit CIP Code:</b>	
Fall 2014	31.0301	N/A	
<b>Present Program Title(s) as Appear(s) on Academic Program Inventory, Diploma, and Transcript:</b>		<b>New Program Title as will Appear on Academic Program Inventory, Diploma, and Transcript:</b>	
B.A. in Park and Recreation Management		B.A. in Recreation Administration	
<b>Degree(s) to be Awarded:</b>		<b>Credit Hour Requirements:</b>	
B.A. in Recreation Administration		124	
<p><b>List any institutions within the state offering similar programs:</b>  <b>Southern Mississippi:</b> B.S. of Recreation Administration and B.S. in Therapeutic Recreation  <b>Jackson State University:</b> B.S in Health and Physical Education (concentration in Therapeutic Recreation and Recreation Administration)  <b>Delta State University:</b> B.S. HPER (concentration Recreational Leadership)</p>			
<b>Responsible Academic Unit(s):</b>		<b>Institutional Contact:</b>	
Department of Health, Exercise Science and Recreation Management		Terry L. Blackmarr, Asst. to the Dean	
<b>Number of Students Enrolled in Last Six Years:</b>		<b>Number of Graduates Expected in Next Six Years:</b>	
Year One	54	Year One	18
Year Two	60	Year Two	20
Year Three	66	Year Three	23
Year Four	84	Year Four	25
Year Five	87	Year Five	27
Year Six	76	Year Six	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>
<p><b>Program Summary:</b> The accredited (COAPRT) Bachelor of Arts in Recreation Administration will prepare students for careers as certified Park and Recreation Professionals and Therapeutic Recreation Specialists. These certifications position graduates for front-line supervisor positions in the recreation, leisure, tourism, sport, and health agencies.</p>			

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**Institutional Executive Officer Signature**

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**Date**

**Institution:**

1. Describe how the proposed modification fits within the mission of the institution.

The current Mission of the University of Mississippi includes “...*The University of Mississippi provides an academic experience that emphasizes critical thinking; encourages intellectual depth and creativity; challenges and inspires a diverse community of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students; provides enriching opportunities outside the classroom; supports lifelong learning; and develops a sense of global responsibility*”.

During 2012 park and recreation faculty, staff, advisory board members, alumni, and students met and discussed the current and projected vision, mission, and goals/objectives for providing a vibrant and forward-looking degree program focused on preparing students for careers in the recreation and leisure industry. Through strategic planning the following Vision and Mission were decided, in part, to coincide with the Mission of the University of Mississippi and to set a foundation and direction for the next 5-10 years.

Vision

The University of Mississippi will offer Mississippi’s foremost service learning-based recreation education focused on matriculating qualified students prepared for careers that improve the health and quality of life for all people.

Mission

The degree programs in Park and Recreation Management provide an experiential education that prepares recreation professionals for careers that improve the health and quality of life for all people. This mission is achieved by:

- Maintaining an accredited (National Recreation and Park Association/COAPRT) undergraduate curriculum.
- Providing education that prepares students to become Certified Park and Recreation Professionals, Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists and/or Certified Park and Recreation Executives.
- Establishing relationships with public, commercial, and not-for-profit recreation organizations committed to improving the health and quality of life of all people.

Repositioning the park and recreation degree program to recreation administration will strengthen the alignment between mission of the degree program and University pursuant to preparing professionals through education and training to achieve certifications and thus, marketability within the workforce.

2. Is this modification unnecessarily duplicative of other programs within the System?

No, in fact the University of Mississippi Bachelor of Arts in Recreation Administration program will be one of two accredited (COAPRT) programs in Mississippi that will prepare students to become Certified Park and Recreation Professionals and Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists upon graduation and the only program providing a Bachelor of Arts. The other accredited recreation program exists at The University of Southern Mississippi and they specialize in therapeutic recreation

(B.S.) and offer a B.S. in Recreation Administration which has been under revision. Two other Universities in Mississippi provide recreation concentrations but are not accredited. **Jackson State University** provides a B.S in Health and Physical Education (concentration in Therapeutic Recreation and Recreation Administration) and **Delta State University**: B.S. HPER (concentration Recreational Leadership).

3. Describe the anticipated institutional impact including any research efforts associated with this program.

The Recreation Administration program will reflect contemporary undergraduate recreation education foci: preparing students for front-line supervisory roles. Currently, a concentrated effort to increase the quality of life in Mississippi by increasing the quality and quantity of recreation and leisure opportunities within communities has been supported by University of Mississippi recreation faculty and students through research assistance, consultation, and manpower sharing. Students are involved in these efforts during planning, assessment, and evaluation stages as well as on-site service learning. These efforts are directly related to the University of Mississippi mission. Already positive [community impacts](#) have been made and valuable experiences gained by students and faculty alike with [additional projects](#) planned.

4. Are there any anticipated budget savings associated with the proposed modification?

No budget savings or budget increases will result.

5. Are there any changes to the educational objectives of the degree program associated with the proposed modification?

Yes. Based on the 2013 Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT) standards for accreditation revisions are required to educational objectives. Course objectives in recreation courses will be revised to reflect these changes. Course objectives will be aligned to meet accreditation standards with specific learning outcomes related to preparing park and recreation professionals to become certified professionals. This change better reflects updated COAPRT accreditation standards that the program must adhere to during the next re-accreditation phase in 2015. Basically, the recreation program will be changed from a generalist focus to a leadership, management, and administration focus that prepares students for front-line supervisory roles and course syllabi will be revised to meet accreditation standards and degree focus goals.

6. Are there any changes to the curriculum of the degree program associated with the proposed modification?

No changes to the curriculum are proposed in 2013. Several course revisions or additions are possible during 2014 based on the re-accreditation self-study.

7. Describe how the proposed modification will affect program faculty.

Faculty will incorporate 2013 COAPRT student learning outcomes in core curricula courses and will focus on education that: 1) integrates service-learning related to leadership, supervision, and administration of recreation programs and 2) reflects contemporary education that provides students with the knowledge to successfully pass professional certification examinations (CPRP/CTRS/CPRE).

8. Describe the evaluation process which led to the request for the proposed modification.

In 2015 the National Recreation and Park Association will require mandatory compliance with the revised 2013 standards necessary to retain COAPRT accreditation at the University of Mississippi (currently the park and recreation degree program is accredited under the 2004 standards). Specifically, the 7.0 series of these revised standards (there are 4) require student learning outcomes that are measurable and specifically related to the subparts of each standard.

In spring 2012 park and recreation faculty began a strategic planning process to determine how to best meet the 2013 standards and achieve reaccreditation in 2015. Our conclusions were students have been taking the CPRP/CTRS certification practice examinations over the past 5 years as part of university cycle-B assessments and their test results accurately measured our learning objectives which were based on current accreditation standards. Moreover, we concluded that 100% of students which earned the CPRP or CTRS certification were employed within the recreation, tourism, leisure, sport industries. Ultimately we decided continuing to use certification examination results would be an acceptable model to achieve re-accreditation and provide valuable feedback on how well the education and vocational skills provided by the degree program prepared students for job placement in front-line supervisory roles.

Consequently, after the strategic planning process, consultation with practitioners and PRM advisory Board member input, and advice from faculty from other accredited institutions the UM park and recreation faculty arrived at the consensus that the term “Recreation Administration” better reflected the recreation education and training received by students at the University of Mississippi under the new (2013) COAPRT standards than “Park and Recreation Management” (2004 standards) and was aligned in accordance to the recreation degree and university mission and vision.