

# **THERAPEUTIC RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN**

## **Vision**

To maintain national recognition for excellence in therapeutic recreation education.

## **Mission**

To provide the undergraduate student an education and professional preparation, encompassing competency in knowledge, skills, and ability to successfully enter the field of therapeutic as well as contributing members to their communities.

## **Core Values**

- Advocacy for persons with special needs and their right for a leisure lifestyle,
- Empowerment of persons with special needs to be self advocates and make life choices for themselves,
- Practice of professional and ethical behaviors in all aspects of life,
- Quest for knowledge and the advancement of the therapeutic recreation profession, and
- Collegiality, collaboration, and respect within the health care community and society in general.

## **Goal One**

Enhance the curricular content of Therapeutic Recreation to position itself as the state leader in educating students for active citizenship, professional careers, advocacy for persons with special needs, and leadership in its professional organizations.

Strategy: To explore the accreditation standards and process for the TR program.

### Objectives:

- Perform self study to determine areas of deficits since our curriculum does not provide a core curriculum in general recreation.
- Meet with persons who have served on accreditation teams to advise program in regards to self study and deficits and ability to achieve accreditation.
- Secure needed resources from administration.

Strategy: To update curriculum content as necessary to keep it current with community and clinical practice in therapeutic recreation.

### Objectives:

- To elicit feedback from clinical sites and practitioners as to practices that need to be updated in the curriculum.

- To be receptive to student feedback regarding curricular issues and needs post clinical placements.
- To seek new/current curricular content through conferences and workshops.

Strategy: To integrate liberal education throughout the therapeutic recreation degree for the acquisition of attitudes and skills required for lifelong learning in a diverse society.

Objectives:

- To increase opportunities for students to engage in study abroad, service learning, and research.
- To graduate students who are self-reflective critical thinkers with well developed communication skills (oral and written) and cultural competence.
- To demonstrate to students the benefits of seeking knowledge for the sake of learning and not for external rewards.

Strategy: To offer courses out of Therapeutic Recreation as part of the general education curriculum.

Objectives:

- Offer a course “Perspectives of Leisure” to fulfill the World Perspectives category for general education.
- Offer a course “Leisure Well-Being” for the theme of Health, Illness, and Healing.

## **Goal Two**

To enhance students’ engagement with faculty, peers, curriculum, and community throughout their degree process.

Strategy: To provide faculty support to each student.

Objectives:

- To maintain consistent office hours.
- To return emails and phone calls in a timely manner.
- To grade and return coursework in a timely manner.
- To identify students whose work is below standard and provide academic counseling.
- To graduate students in a timely fashion.

Strategy: To encourage student collaboration and support in curricular and co-curricular activities.

Objectives:

- To support a faculty sponsored student TR Club.
- To provide “group” projects as part of the TR curriculum.

Strategy: To seek and utilize student feedback on curriculum.

Objectives:

- To utilize end of course evaluations.
- To utilize formative evaluation as appropriate on large projects.
- To utilize placement evaluations which critiques how well the curriculum prepared them for the placement.

Strategy: To increase students’ involvement with their community (campus, Allendale/Grand Rapids, Michigan, professional).

Objectives:

- Increase student (as a TR group) involvement in university activities.
- Increase service learning opportunities in the Grand Rapids and Allendale area.
- Increase fieldwork and internship placement sites throughout Michigan.
- Increase the number of students who join a professional organization (state or national).
- Increase the number of students who attend a national conference (NTRS or ATRA).

Strategy: To increase diversity in the student population within the TR program.

Objectives:

- Modeling diversity in faculty will assist in increasing diversity in the student population.
- Develop a program marketing plan to reach diverse student groups across campus.
- Develop a program marketing plan to reach diverse student populations in high schools throughout Michigan.

### **Goal Three**

To enhance faculty’s performance in the areas of effective teaching, scholarly activity and service.

Strategy: To provide a clear definition and parameters for effective teaching.

Objectives:

- Give feedback to FTLC as it works the definition of effective teaching for the university.
- Revise the TR programs workload plan to incorporate “effective teaching”.

Strategy: To match faculty area of scholarly interest with type and level of activity.

Objectives:

- To revise the TR workload plan to ensure a broad definition of scholarly activity.
- To ensure all faculty meet baseline scholarship activity in their interest area.
- Faculty choosing to pursue scholarly activity beyond the baseline expectations will be given “significant focus” time (equivalent to teaching a 3 credit course) as part of their workload per semester. (Faculty will need to demonstrate output)

Strategy: To investigate potential funding sources for grant opportunities.

Objectives:

- Pursue funding for an adaptive equipment loan program.
- Pursue funding for wheelchair athletics programming
- Pursue HUD funding for programming for Ferguson Apartments and Ransom Towers.

Strategy: To engage faculty in service activities at the program, college, university, community, and professional level.

Objectives:

- As a program, to ensure representation at all levels.
- To determine at which service levels each faculty member’s has a preference for service.

## **Goal Four**

To provide necessary resources and infrastructure for the program to meet its mission.

Strategy: Maintain and/or strengthen relationships with programs or organizations that can assist the TR program provide services to its students.

Objectives:

- Identify university programs which are as well as those that have the potential to be resources for the TR program.
- Identify community programs which are as well as those that have the potential be resources for the TR program.

Strategy: Develop TR Alumni Database as a support base financially, programmatically, and advocacy.

Strategy: Maintain a list of possible adjuncts for courses which require current clinical practical skills and applications.

Strategy: To plan ahead for budgetary needs and be fiscally responsible.