Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)
Course Approval Sheet

Department _Recreation, Parks, and Tourism_ College _Health and Human Services_

Course Number _660_ Course Title _Communications and Professional Issues In Recreation, Parks, Tourism_

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This proposal is a: (please check one)

___ X ___ Minor Modification to an Existing Course
_____ _____ Substantial Modification to an Existing Course
_____ _____ Completely New Course

Relationship of course to major(s). Please indicate how this course fits in the major.

All RPT majors are required to take 660 during the first semester of their senior year. We would offer two sections to accommodate all majors. We presented the rationale for offering a GWAR class in their senior year to CWEP in May 2009 and received tentative approval of offering it in senior year. Over 50% of our students change their major into RPT during their junior year. Our core class rotation is such that 660 is the first class where there is “room,” due to accreditation requirements, to provide the writing focus, assignments and evaluations required by GWAR.

Prerequisite: A prerequisite for the course is the completion of English 214 or its equivalent with a grade of “C-” or better. ___ X ___ Yes ______ No

Please attach a course syllabus to this form.

Please indicate how this course meets each of the GWAR criteria:
(Note: You may respond either in the blanks below or on a separate sheet attached to this form.)

Criterion #1 - Class Size: Courses satisfying the GWAR should have an enrollment of 25 students or fewer.

RPT 660 will be capped at 25 students

Criterion #2 - Number of Pages/Words: The overall assignments for the course will include a minimum of 15 pages, meaning the equivalent of 4000 words, of formal writing that demonstrates upper-division written English proficiency within the given discipline.

The coursework for RPT 660 includes at least 15 pages of formal writing, within 3 major writing assignments, that will be evaluated by the instructor. See descriptions in syllabus.
Criterion #3 - How Writing Will Affect the Final Grade: At least 60% of the grade in GWAR courses must be based on written assignments and take-home essay exams (e.g., exams designed to allow for revision), which are evaluated for both content and quality of writing.

Formal writing comprises 70% of the final grade.

Criterion #4 - Revision of Assignments: GWAR courses must include substantive revision of major, graded, written assignments in response to feedback.

Each formal writing assignment will undergo a peer review and two instructor reviews with revisions required after each.

Criterion #5 - Types of Assignments: GWAR courses should include a variety of writing assignments that are distributed throughout the semester, rather than concentrated at the end.

There will be three major writing assignments: 1) Resume/Cover Letter is worth 20% (100 total points; 25 points for the draft; 75 points for the final submission). This assignment will require students to type a professional resume and cover letter that will be used to secure their internship; 2) Case Study (ethics and professionalism) is worth 20% (100 total points; 25 points for the draft; 75 points for the final submission) and will require students to type a 1000-word critical analysis examining a topic related to ethics and/or professionalism. 3) RPT Scholar Paper is worth 30% (150 points; 50 points for the draft; 100 points for the final submission) and will require students to type a paper (3,000 to 3,500 words – approximately 10 pages) critically analyzing an issue and potential solution within the recreation, parks, and tourism profession.

Criterion #6 - In-class Attention to Writing: GWAR course syllabi should reflect significant class time devoted to instruction in writing conventions within the given discipline.

Each of the three major assignments will be discussed at length in class. In these discussions, and subsequent instructor reviews, there will be heavy reliance on the grading criteria shown in the syllabus to help students understand what is expected and how to improve their writing. There are five major grading criteria: Directions; Content and Development; Organization; as well as Writing Style and Conventions. For example, under the heading of Content and Development the instructor will use the following to introduce, review, help improve student writing and assign grades (shown below are the content and development expectations for an A grade).

| Content and Development (30%) | Paper consistently, clearly, and effectively conveys a focused thesis. Topic has sufficient depth and development; supported by evidence, examples, and details. References are used carefully and cited correctly. Ideas and/or arguments are insightful and thought-out. Critical and creative thinking is demonstrated in terms of |

...
These discussions will entail significant class time. During class the instructor will use anonymous student paper segments to provide examples and illustrate key points and concerns, in addition to evaluations presented individually to students.

**Criterion # 7, Number of Units:** GWAR courses should be at least 3 units.

RPT 660 is a 3 unit class.

Department/Program Chair/Directors

Patrick Tierney_________________________Patrick

Print Name

Signature