WCU Parks & Recreation Management Essay Instructions

The PRM Program is committed to student success; academically, professionally, and personally. To help guide your path through the program and into your professional career, students are required to complete the PRM Essay prior to officially declaring PRM as their major. The PRM Essay is your opportunity to describe to the faculty “why you want to be a PRM major”. This essay will be completed in PRM 260.

Structure your essay so that it is organized in a way to effectively communicate and develop the topic. Please include an introductory paragraph that clearly explains what the essay will focus on. The body of the essay needs to include several paragraphs that support your introduction and answer the key sections. Finally, end with a conclusion/summary paragraph. Within your essay, use reflection, analysis, opinions and specific examples to support your main points. If you use outside sources, please cite using APA formatting.

Essays should be written in a way that demonstrates your ability to set goals and highlights an understanding of the work, planning and responsibility it takes to achieve these goals within the PRM program.

Visit the WaLC to have them check over your paper for clarity, flow, and the inclusion of required elements. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment at least 1-2 weeks in advance.

Writing Requirements for the Essay:

- Have a font no smaller or bigger than 12-point with standard margins.
- Be completed on a computer
- Be double-spaced and in the appropriate format.
- Have numbered pages, including the cover sheet
- Have a cover sheet listing the following:
  - Parks & Recreation Management Essay
  - Student’s name (Preferred name; first and last)
  - Student’s contact information (email required; phone number optional)
  - Career Path Interest Area
- Meet APA Publication Manuscript style, i.e., references, citing (direct and paraphrased quotes, headings, etc.). See Purdue Owl for help: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/
- Use your spell-check, grammar, and thesaurus tools, which are provided in all word document software. PROOF YOUR WORK!

Informational Requirements for the Essay:
Within your essay, please discuss, explain, and provide examples where appropriate for each of the sections below. Answer all questions that are appropriate for your personal essay.

Part 1 – Your past experiences.

What experiences in your past have brought you to Parks and Recreation Management as a major?
Examples: your parents introduced you to the outdoors, you attended camp as a child, you have worked during the summer with your local recreation park, you have visited national parks or forests, you enjoy a variety of outdoor activities, you were a boy/girl scout when you were growing up, you enjoy participating and helping others lead a healthy lifestyle, you love to interact with people.

Part 2 – Goal or goals.
What goal or goals would you like to achieve in the Parks and Recreation Management field? Which PRM career path do you have the most interest in? Where do you see yourself working some day?
Examples: you always wanted to work in a community recreation program, you would like to work in a national park or state park, you would like to lead others in outdoor recreation activities, you want to work with youth in a sport or fitness setting, you are interested in graduate school, you are interested in being a recreational entrepreneur, you want to direct a recreation center or business.

Part 3 – Strategies.
What strategies will help you to achieve your goals?
Discussion: classes you should take in the major, and as electives, summer jobs that would benefit you, internships or volunteer positions that you should explore, involvement in the PRM club or other organizations on campus, experience through Base Camp Cullowhee or the Campus Recreation Center, involvement in off campus organizations and conferences, membership in professional organizations and groups, certifications you plan to acquire.

Part 4 – Summarize.
How do you want to proceed? What questions do you currently have for your new advisor? Is there anything else your PRM advisor needs to be aware of to support you in this degree? Are you ready to start taking elective classes or work on a minor within your career path OR do you need to try out a variety of classes to see which one fits your goals the best?

If you could summarize why you want to be a PRM major in one sentence, do so here.

**Special Considerations:**
1. If you have already submitted your PRM essay, please revise/update and resubmit to this assignment module. At the end of the essay, indicate who your PRM major advisor is if you were assigned one.

2. If you are a PRM minor, change the language in the essay requirements to refer to PRM being your "minor".

3. If you are not planning to be a PRM major (or minor), then write the essay from the standpoint of your present major.

Still have questions?? Contact the instructor for answers.