

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Department of Health and Human Performance
Exercise Science and Sport, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism
Management (SORT) Programs Academic Program Review

Dr. Steven R. Angle
Chancellor

Dr. Jerald Hale
Provost

Dr. Valerie Rutledge
Dean

Dr. Marisa Colston
Department Chair

Visitation Dates: March 15-17, 2021

Visitation Team Member:
Dr. Melissa Weddell

Agenda for Virtual Visit

All meetings were conducted via Zoom initiated by The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Monday, March 15, 2021

8:30 – 9:30 am Orientation – Dr. Sherry Marlow Ormsby (Executive Director) & Cindy Taylor Williamson (Director of Assessment), Office of Planning Evaluation Institutional Research (OPEIR)

10:00 – 11:00 am Orientation - Dr. Marisa Colston (Department Head)

11:30 – 12:15 pm Meeting - Dr. Valerie Rutledge (Dean), College of Health Education and Professional Studies (CHEPS)

1:15 – 2:00 pm Meeting - Dr. Jerald Hale (Provost) and Dr. Matt Matthews (Vice Provost), Academic Affairs

2:15 – 2:45 pm End of Day Wrap-Up; Q & A - Dr. Colston (Department Head), Dr. Bailey (SORT Program Coordinator), Dr. Oglesby (ES Program Coordinator)

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

8:30 – 9:00 am Meeting - Theresa Liedtka (Dean of the Library)

9:15 – 10:00 am Meeting - Dr. Dawn Ford (Executive Director) Walker Center for Teaching & Learning 10:15 – 11:15 am Meeting - Exercise Science Faculty

11:15 – 12:15 pm Meeting - SORT Faculty

1:15 – 1:30 pm Q & A - Dr. Marisa Colston (Department Head)

1:45 – 2:15 pm Meeting - Current Program Students

2:15 – 2:45 pm Meeting - Program Alumni

3:00 – 5:00 pm Self-Study and Support Documentation Review - Ms. Marcy Porter (CHEPS Program Accreditation & Assessment Manager)

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

8:30 – 8:45 am Q & A - Dr. Marisa Colston (Department Head)

8:45 – 8:50 am Email the THEC Rubric to OPEIR prior to exit conference anytime within this timeframe; this is not a meeting and will not take more than 5 minutes.

9:00 – 10:00 am Exit Conference - Provost Hale, Vice Provost Matthews, Dean Rutledge, Ms. Porter, Dr. Colston, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Oglesby; Cindy Williamson & Dr. Ormsby

Summary

Learning Outcomes & Curriculum

Overall the Exercise (ES) and Sport, Outdoor Recreation, and Tourism (SORT) Programs have clear learning outcomes for their programs and courses. The programs use various national accreditation bodies to develop curriculum with unique tracks for students to choose courses that align with their specific career interests. The programs, and department, are encouraged to continue to develop strategies for curriculum development based on stakeholder feedback, including current students, alumni, and industry partners along with examining national accreditation standards.

Student Experience

The department ensures students have opportunities to provide feedback through semester course evaluations. Also, students can participate in experiential learning through undergraduate research and practicums/internships that provide unique, diverse experiences for career readiness.

Faculty

The department is well supported with faculty and resources, specifically with recent hires; however, as student enrollment continues to grow, teaching and advising loads should be monitored to protect workload equity.

Learning Resources

The department and programs have access to learning and information resources that are appropriate to support teaching and scholarship. The Walker Center for Teaching & Learning provides various teaching resources and Quality Matter programs to ensure faculty can deliver robust pedagogy using the latest technology.

Support

The department and programs are responsive to the regional and state needs by offering elective courses to meet industry demands. Additionally, graduation rates are sufficient to sustain high quality and cost-effectiveness.

Program Strengths

- *Faculty:* Feedback from administrators, professionals, and especially students, describes faculty as capable, committed, accessible, and compassionate. They are focused on helping students succeed and are the fundamental strength of the program. Offering undergraduate research and field experiences were mentioned by all students as valuable and a highlight of their academic experience.
- *Leadership:* Another strength of the program is the strong leadership team of the program directors and department chair.
- *Resources:* Fiscal resources are sufficient. Faculty report they have the resources they need to succeed, including a teaching and learning center. This support comes from all levels—university, college, and department

Major Concerns

- No major concerns were noted.

Secondary Concerns

- *Advising*: Structure of advisement (centralized department advising) and equitable workload distribution needs to be addressed as enrollment increases.
- *Field Experiences*: Continue to develop local and regional placement for practicums/internships and research opportunities that support student experiences.
- *Curriculum development*: Both programs need to improve curriculum development processes by formalizing the input from students and professional stakeholders and by reporting assessment results in a uniform, meaningful way.
- *Partnerships*: Build formal partnerships on campus and with community stakeholders to ensure student experiential learning.
- *Strategic Plan*: Develop department and program strategic plan that accounts for enrollment growth in a diverse department.
- *Online Presence*: Update outward-facing marketing materials and brand.

Prepared by:



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