

Graduate Studies Update

Spring 2008

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ME-PD Program Student and
Graduate Assistant-Office of
Graduate Studies

Graduate Student Funding

The Office of Graduate Studies submitted funding proposals and received the following amounts from each respective source:

Academic Initiative: \$23,000

Apportionment: \$6,000 (Travel); \$740 (Other)

The funds from the Academic Initiative are used to award the Research, Service and Educational Leadership or RSEL grants. This year's funding increased by 14% over the last academic year. Additional funding for RSEL grants will come from a variety of campus resources in academic affairs.

The funds (\$6,000) from the Apportionment committee will be supplemented in the amount of \$3,500 by the Office of Graduate Studies and used for the Graduate Professional Travel Grant program. The Apportionment committee funds increased this year by 25%.

An additional \$740 from the Apportionment committee are designated for the new graduate student orientation in the fall and for organizing the networking events for young professionals across the UW-L community during the academic year.

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Purpose: An update on the progress of the Action Steps and direction of Graduate Studies at UW-La Crosse.

Peer Graduate Schools

The Office of Graduate Studies spent this semester identifying peer graduate schools around the nation. A total of 13 schools were selected based on their enrollment, types of programs, and overall similarity to UW-L. The schools were then compared to UW-L in several areas like; cost, admission requirements, policies, and student financial aid. This information will be used as a base line for future comparisons. UW-L compares well with its peers in most areas except the number of tuition waivers and graduate assistantships which are beginning to affect our competitiveness in attracting high quality students.

Top 3 Action Steps

Priority #1

Secure long term allocation of existing Academic Initiative revenue for graduate students

Priority #2

Develop consistent web presence for UW-L graduate programs

Priority #3

Develop a public relations structure for UW-L graduate studies

Note: Suggestions to improve the layout/content of this update are welcome and should be directed to:

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Spotlight on Graduate Programs

Exercise and Sports Science/Sports Administration

The Master of Science in Exercise and Sport Science – Sport Administration is a multidisciplinary program of advanced study of 36-credits designed to prepare graduate candidates for a career in sport and physical activity in the following sectors: education (interscholastic/intercollegiate), leisure/fitness/recreational, professional, and elite/Olympic.

In this program students gain theoretical knowledge in athletic assessment, research methods, facility planning, sport administration, financial management, sports law, and sports marketing. In addition elective course options include: sport psychology, sport sociology, and current issues in sports.

The students are also required to un-

dertake the 6-credit, 400-hour internship in an administrative area of their choice, with approval of the Program Director.

Graduates of this program have filled positions with myriad organizations: colleges and universities in all NCAA divisions, La Crosse Loggers, Milwaukee Brewers, Minnesota Timberwolves, Indianapolis Colts, YMCA, United States Olympic Committee, and other excellent and diverse sport organizations.

This graduate program prepares students for careers in administrative jobs at the intercollegiate or professional sports level.

According to a recent survey, some job titles/employment that recent

graduates have obtained are as: Operations Assistant Manager, Events Coordinator, Tournament Coordinator, Event Services Coordinator, Assistant General Manager, Membership and Marketing Coordinator, Development Coordinator, Sports Information Director, Assistant Director Recreation/Fitness, Assistant Commissioner for Championships, Sport Clubs/Special Events Coordinator, Assistant Recreation Supervisor, Athletics Director, Recreation Supervisor, and Sports/Recreation Coordinator.

The degree program also has a three year cohort group program run off-campus through Continuing Education.

Exercise and Sport Science-Physical Education Teacher Education

The Exercise and Sport Science-Physical Education Teacher Education option is a practitioner-oriented program for professionals seeking additional expertise in physical education teaching. It is designed to help individuals to become better teachers in the K-12 environment. Emphasis is placed on current national trends and issues throughout the curriculum. The teaching option offers emphases in Adventure Education, Health as a Lifestyle, and Adapted Physical Education Teaching (Special Populations).

The Adventure Education emphasis is designed as a practitioner-oriented

program for physical educators seeking specific expertise in the area of adventure/outdoor pursuits.

The Health as a Lifestyle emphasis is practitioner-oriented for physical educators interested in increasing their expertise in the area of health education curricula in the school setting.

The Adapted Physical Education/Special Populations emphasis is designed for educators interested in teaching, leadership, and supervisory roles in adapted physical education.

Students may select a thesis or non-thesis option.

The thesis option includes courses in research methods and statistics and a six-credit thesis project. The non-thesis option requires a current research interpretation course and an assessment course. Students choosing the non-thesis option must also successfully complete comprehensive written exams. Assistantships are available for qualified students to teach physical education in area schools and in basic physical activity courses at UW-L. The basic program is also offered off-campus through Continuing Education and is structured into a three year cohort group.



Graduate Programs in Community Health and Public Health

Graduate programs in Community Health began with the development of the Master of Science in Community Health Education (MS-CHE) in 1975, and in Public Health in 1991 with the development of the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. The MPH degree became the first one ever offered in the University of Wisconsin System. That program became nationally accredited in 1992 so that all students have graduated from an accredited program. The MPH program is currently accredited through 2014. Of additional note, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse became the first institution in the nation to have both its MPH and BS-CHE programs nationally accredited through the same accreditation review process. In 2003, the MPH program was ranked 6th in the nation by *U.S. News and World Report* for Graduate Community Health Programs.

The Graduate Community Health and health promotion professionals in a variety of settings, to include public health departments, medical centers, community-based organizations, governmental organizations, and corporate settings. Candidates are prepared to assess the needs and capacities of various populations in order to develop educational opportunities and research endeavors for health enhancement. This is why the programs are termed “population-based.” As has been cited by Turnock (2009), we are “witnessing 50 million fewer smokers than would have been expected, given trends in tobacco use through 1965. More than 2 million Americans are alive today who otherwise would have died from heart disease and stroke, and nearly 100,000 Americans are alive as a result of automobile seatbelt use” (p. 2). Professionals in Community Health Education and Public Health address

these kinds of prevention and health promotion issues on a daily basis. In addition to coursework, both the MS-CHE and MPH programs require a 400-hour Community Health Education Preceptorship experience that enables candidates to become directly engaged in health enhancement programs and activities (e.g., worksite health promotion; community-based needs and capacity assessments; epidemiologic investigations of disease outbreaks; tobacco and substance misuse control through advocacy and education; ongoing health promotion research). Each MPH candidate then has an opportunity to develop a thesis research endeavor or a graduate project based on emerging health issues. For additional information about either program, please contact Dr. Gary D. Gilmore, Professor and Director, at: gilmore.gary@uwlax.edu or 608-785-8163.

Future Deadlines (<http://www.uwlax.edu/graduate/deadlines.htm>)

RSEL Grants: October 10, 2008 (Office of Graduate Studies)

Professional Travel Grants: September 19 & December 12, 2008 (Office of Graduate Studies)

Graduate Student Grant Awards

The Graduate Council awarded a total of 9 Research, Service and Educational Leadership (RSEL) grants to graduate students in Spring 2008. The grants totaled \$10,388; including a \$2,000 grant for a project involving international research for a Special Education student for studying in Ireland. The Office of International Education provided funds for the latter. RSEL grants recipients included students from the following programs: Student Affairs Administration; Therapeutic Recreation; Education Studies; Biology; Microbiology; School Psychology; and Community Health. In addition, 29 students were awarded Professional Travel Grants to present at, or attend, a conference. These grant programs for graduate students are partially funded through Academic Initiative and other student fees.

UW-L Graduate Student Recognized in the CGS Publication

Julie Kinney, who received M.S. in Education from UW- La Crosse in 2007, was in very good company among 7 graduate degree holders from Wisconsin who are included in the publication *Making a Difference: A Selection of Graduate Degree Holders and Their Contributions to the Public Good* published by the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS). UW-La Crosse was the only comprehensive institution from Wisconsin together with three nominations each from UW-Madison and Marquette University. CGS publication *Making a Difference* is a companion to the report *Graduate Education and the Public Good* released at the Legislative Forum on April 24, 2008 in Washington, DC.

Julie Kinney was recommended by Dr. Delores Heiden, Director of the Masters in Reading program at UW-La Crosse, and her nomination was subsequently forwarded to CGS by the UW-L Office of Graduate Studies. Ms. Kinney is an English/Literacy Teacher at Logan High School, yearbook advisor and forensic judge; she also serves as a mentor teacher for clinical students from UW-Lacrosse. She is a 2006 recipient of the Pat Bricker Research Award from the Wisconsin State Reading Association and a 2007 Graduate Student Research Award from the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse. Ms. Kinney was also awarded the Teacher of the Month from Logan High School in both April and May of 2007. Her goal

is to pursue a doctorate in Children/Adolescent literature and teach at the college level.

The University of Wisconsin La Crosse is a member of the Council of Graduate Schools with its mission to improve and advance graduate education. In addition to the very strong undergraduate programs, the University has very robust Graduate programs with an enrollment of approximately 1200 students in select areas to meet the regional needs.



Congratulations Spring Graduates and award winners

Congratulations to 414 UW-L graduate students who will receive their degrees in the commencement on May 17, 2008. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

We would also like to congratulate:

- **Janae Halm** from the Masters in Public Health for winning the 2008 Academic Achievement Award. (Nominated by Dr. Gary Gilmore)
- **Mary Jo Michaels** from the Masters in Public Health for winning the 2008 Outstanding Thesis Award. (Nominated by Dr. Gary Gilmore)
- **Elizabeth Burand** from Biology for winning the Spring 2008 Student Research Celebration Award. (Research mentored by Dr. Bradley Seebach)



The Office of Graduate Studies Welcomes Mike Kennedy

Mike Kennedy comes to us from Logistics Health Incorporated. Mike retired as an Air Force Master Sergeant after 21 years in 1997. Mike will provide support for graduate studies as well as the Institutional Review Board or I.R.B.