RE 491 - PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENT SEMINAR

**EXIT PAPER**

***Included in Comprehensive Exam Part C.***

**Directions:** Respond to each question as honestly, accurately and completely as possible.

At the beginning of the paper include the following information in the order below:

* Justin Ozrovitz
* Your Minor: None
* ORLM Declaration: Fall 2014
* Anticipated graduation date: December 2016

**Questions:**

1. **What do you personally hope to accomplish through your work in the Leisure Services profession?**

Once I leave Northern Michigan University and finish my internship I hope to explore the United States and land a job as an interpreter at a national park. That’s the ultimate goal. One of my biggest passions has always been to teach others and have others gain interest in certain things that they may have never felt close to before. As I progress in a profession I hope to accomplish a few things. Personally, I want to better myself as a public speaker, I have always had the energy to spill onto others but sometimes lack the fine points that make a great public speaker, great. I need to work on aspects of public speaking such as refraining from using filler words, and looking at my audience instead of my resource. I will most likely accomplish this with practice and time in the field; something I would like to accomplish. Another thing I would like to accomplish as I work in the leisure services is a better understanding in myself. As of right now, I have a solid idea on what I want to pursue, and that’s interpretation. That may however change once I complete my internship. Only time will tell and I cant wait.

1. **What do you see as your strengths as an Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management senior?**

As an Outdoor Recreation Leadership Management senior I feel like I can now collaborate with not only my peers, but also my professors on a professional level. I have become more “open” and willing to try new things as I’ve progressed here at NMU. When I first arrived in Marquette after obtaining an associates degree in liberal arts at Oakland Community College I was on edge to trying new things, meeting new people, and breaking out of my shell. I now feel today, as if I’ve become more open and relaxed. I now have a better understanding on what this major is all about and have more respect for professionals in the field. I have learned many things here, like how to program, how to research, how to present, lead, and motivate others; along with a number of technical skills as well. This program has giving me the opportunity to be myself and really absorb the material that’s been presented to me. If you have a passion for what you’re learning, it is that much more enjoyable to not only learn about it, but to implement it and put it into action.

1. **What do you see as your weaknesses as an Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management senior?**

As an Outdoor Recreation Major one weakness that I would like to point out that I see in myself is the lack to bring groups together, and group development. Each summer when I go up to Wawa to be a camp counselor I always go into the session with the want to work on my group development skills, I try to focus on Tuckman’s Model and use that in the real world to help me better relate my group (campers and staff) to the different stages listed. In numerous classes in this major I have learned about Tuckmans Model and have been referred back to it numerous times. What I have found is that regardless of how many times you learn how to develop groups, and work with group development, there is always room for improvement within that group. As I progress into my internship and the next summer, I hope to still focus my attention on group development as it always plays a vital role in building communities and friendships wherever they’re presented.

1. **In what areas would you most like to improve?**

Being an interpreter calls for exceptional oral communication skills, and me personally would like to focus on improving just that. Throughout the entirety of this major I have been asked to orally communicate many different projects, research findings, programs, and talks. In all of my grading sheets or feedback forms I’ve received back, there were always comments on how I can better myself as a communicator; things I could work on, and things I should stay away from. I think that the more I present and talk in front of people, the better I will get at mastering the skills to be “exceptional” at it. Practice, practice, practice.

**5. For each of the following academic skills listed below (a.- j.), complete the following:**

1. Identify your present competency level in each of the following academic skills (Use “poor, fair, good, excellent” to identify level)
2. Indicate whether or not your present level has improved since your beginning semester. (Use "improved" or "stayed the same")
3. Indicate the academic or "real-world" experiences that have positively impacted your competency level

List of Academic Skills:

* 1. **Critical/analytical thinking**

I. Good
ii. Improved
iii. Each and every day at summer camp I am required to use my critical thinking skills, from making smart decisions, to telling campers NO you can not jump off that rock; I always have to be on my A game and aware of my surroundings. At night at camp we have staff meetings talking about not only funny things that we say throughout the day, but issues among the camp that should be brought up to the group. Me along with my co-staff have to demonstrate our critical thinking skills in order to make the sound decisions on certain topics and issues brought about.

* 1. **Clear reasoning/understanding in each of the following:**
1. **Logical**

I. Good
ii. Improved
iii. Going through this program has really opened my eyes to what is logical and what isn’t. Logic requires reasoning by us in order to form certain thoughts and opinions; as well as good judgment making. I believe that I have improved in forming certain opinions and making good judgment calls in order to be more “logical” with myself and other as these last couple of years progressed. I think me growing up and becoming more mature helped me do so.

1. **Mathematical**
 I. Good
 ii. Improved
 iii. The only “math” class that I’ve taken since community college has been physiological statistics, which focuses mainly on statistics but still has the math component to it making it a “math” class in my mind. This class helped prepare me for RE-467 with my research studies. Also, ever since taking stats, I see it around more in school and daily life. I now have a general understanding on the basics of statistics; therefore I have improved in this aspect.
2. **Scientific [identify the type of science(s)]**
 I. Good
 ii. Improved
 iii. My first year here at northern I took my first ever geology class, and boy was it a blast! I have always had the urge to learn about our land and the science behind it; this class allowed me to do just that. After taking that class I can say that I now have a better understanding on geology and the science that goes along with it. The class has also persuaded to go out on my own and learn more about the rocks in this general area. I have even passed on the knowledge that I learned in the class to my fellow peers, whether they were interested in learning about it or not ☺, I love to teach.

1. **Analogical (ability to discern similarities in some respects between things otherwise unlike)** I. Excellent
 ii. Improved
 iii. RE-381 helped me with this one the most. Interpretation calls for the use of analogies and metaphors in order to help you as the interpreter better relate what you are displaying or describing to your audience members. I love using analogies and find them very helpful when relating someone to someone.
2. **Metaphorical (ability to compare using a word or phrase associated with one thing to apply to another)** I. Excellent
 ii. Improved
 iii. Like I said in the section above, RE-381 helped me with this the most. I feel like I really started to understand metaphors a whole lot better once I started taking the interpretation classes.
	1. **Creative thinking** I. Excellent
	 ii. Improved
	 iii. I am the kind of person that likes to think outside of the box; I like to do things the way people ARENT doing them, being the same is boring, you have to spice things up if you want to et noticed. Classes such as RE-410 and RE-381 gave me the chance to use my creative thinking skills and create things that I may have not ever thought I would. There are times however, throughout the program, that I wish I was a little more obscure and used a little bit more creative thinking skills in order to spice up and or better what I was creating. Overall though, I believe I have improved as a creative thinker throughout the course of this major.
	2. **Programming** I. Excellent
	 ii. Improved
	 iii. RE-362 Program Design in Leisure Services was my biggest resource in becoming a better programmer. This class taught me the necessary measure need to be taken in order to plan and implement and effective program. This class was a lot of work but probably the most rewarding. The program my group and I put on was a blast and all the work we put into the planning for it showed once we went into action. I don’t really see programing being something that I want to peruse, it will however stick with me and I plan to use what I have learned in the future when programing is called upon.
	3. **Risk management** I. Good
	 ii. Improved
	 iii. Classes such as RE-362 and RE-256 required me to create risk management forms making what we’re doing legal and overall a safer place. Aside from school, at camp we have a ten-day pre-camp where we talk about issues and different things that may pop up and become potential risks. We spend a lot of time talking and communicating with each other about certain topics, which help create a safer summer.
	4. **Interpretation** I. Excellent
	 ii. Improved
	 iii. RE-381 and RE-382 really opened my eyes to the field of interpretation. I took these two classes to heart and really cared about the work I was producing in them. I feel confident and competent in the interpretation realm of this major. I also worked as my professors teaching assistant giving her hands producing lesson plans and giving the student interpreters feedback on their different interpretive talks.
	5. **Preparation of lessons** I. Excellent
	 ii. Improved
	 iii. Classes such as RE-250, RE-251, and RE-261 gave me as an individual the most practice and with generating lesson plans. Our field has a lot of different positions that will require the generation of lesson plans, I feel like I was well prepared to do so in many different courses throughout my time here.
	6. **Presentation of lessons** I. Excellent
	 ii. Improved
	 iii. RE-250, RE-251, RE-261, along with a handful of courses in the ORLM program gave me the opportunity to showcase my public speaking skills with giving lesson plans. Those classes focused on many things, with lessons plans being one of them. We learned how to prepare, and implement them efficiently and in the correct manner. RE-250 mainly taught me the ins and outs on lesson plan giving and how to be an actual outdoor educator. I also remember giving lesson plan on my stewardship course
	7. **Planning adventure and/or outdoor experiences** I. Excellent
	 ii. Improved
	 iii. Each summer I head up to Canada and lead two week long backcountry hiking and canoeing trips for 14, 15, and year 16-year-old kids. I have always had to prepare, plan, and lead these trips. Each summer it is somewhat redundant as we lead the same trips as we do the previous summer. I do want to say though that the wilderness stewardship course opened my eyes to a different way of planning and it was awesome. It’s cool to see how other agencies and people plan for trips. It’s usually hard to let go of the ways that you know, it can however be healthy for you as it’s nice to branch out and break out of your comfort zone every once in a while.
	8. **Leading adventure and/or outdoor experiences** I. Excellent
	 ii. Improved
	 iii. During my time here at NMU I enrolled in a course called RE-356, wilderness stewardship. This course gave me the opportunity to be a leader of the day with another student. As leaders of the day it was our role to make sure everyone gets up and moving in the morning, we would do rounds and check in on our peers, we would plan the day accordingly, and make sure things are being run smoothly in order to ensure the safety of our group. This class was the first time I had been able to lead a group of individuals outside of my camp trips that I lead each summer. I mentioned above that I have improved since the start of the program. I believe this is true due to me leading people of a different age group for the first time, leading college students opened my eyes to different teaching methods, and different ways to approach things when in the field. I feel like this experience had made me a better outdoor leader and will hopefully carry on with me as I progress through the outdoor recreation profession.

**6. Write a response to a NMU parent’s questions, a) “What can you do with an Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management degree?” and b) “How does ORLM contribute to the Leisure Services industry and profession?”**

When people hear what my degree is in and ask me what I am going to do with it, my first response if “work at a national park”. When people here Outdoor Recreation they throw blinders on and only assume that we as professionals start fires and build shelters. Little do they know, there’s a whole lot more that goes on in the major and behind the sense that help us become the professionals we set out to be. With a degree in Outdoor Recreation Leadership Management one can do many things; Ranging from trip leaders, outdoor educators, camp counselors, guiding services, and jobs with titles such as a Park Rangers and high ropes course instructors. As for the question ““How does ORLM contribute to the Leisure Services industry and profession?” As outdoor professionals were as students were taught to connect individuals to the outdoors both physically and emotionally. It is our job to continue pushing people to admire the natural world and show them what it has to offer. I am going to quote my friend Amelia Richards and say that we are “superheroes, saving the world one recreational experience at a time”. I think Amelia hit that one on the head and cant be more right; as professionals in this industry we open the eyes to many people and have the ability to manipulate how they view the world and hopefully change their views for the better.

**7. A. Using an accepted format, cite the literature and/or texts which you have read related to the Outdoor Recreation/Leisure Services profession that you believe have the most meaning or usefulness for you as an entry-level professional.**

 1. Deep Waters

2. Interpretation: Making a difference on purpose

* Raffan, J. (2002). *Deep Waters: Is the Adventure Worth the Risk - the Lake Timiskaming Conoeing Tragedy*. Toronto, Canada: Harper Collins.
* Ham, S. H. (n.d.). Interpretation: Making a difference on purpose.

**Identify why each of the items listed in (7. A.) has meaning or usefulness.**

* 1. It’s been a while since I’ve read Deep Waters so what I reflect on may be a little fuzzy. The book was read with the intention of us, the students, t gain a better understanding about judgment. As professionals in our field, a lot of job possibilities are trip leaders and guides, and while in the field good judgment decision-making skills must be used to ensure safety. After reading this book and having a lesson of judgment making on my RE-356 stewardship course I have gained a much better appreciation for decision making and judgment calls. I shared the lesson that we had on the stewardship course with my co-staff and I personally believe it was an exceptionally valuable resource for them as what we do in the woods in no game and must be taken seriously.
	2. Sam Hams book **“**Interpretation: Making a difference on purpose” was probably the most valuable piece of literature that I read through my time in the ORLM program. To be honest, I never really cracked the book open during the interpretation course, shame on me; I did however thoroughly dissect the book during this past summer at camp. This book was my main focus of reading and I really enjoyed it. I think this book should be read by anyone looking to go into the interpretation field and or anyone interested in the background and ins and outs of the field. I will forever be referring back to this book as I progress in the field.

**8. What have you learned about yourself through your experiences and courses in the ORLM program?**

School isn’t easy, the professors aren’t here to hold your hand, what you do, and how well you do it is completely up to you. If you put in the hard work and effort it WILL show on the grade sheets. Not only will that hard work reflect your overall grade, it also reflects you as an individual. I have learned so much during my time here; from leadership skills, personal speaking, how to program, and the overall idea of what our field is all about, the ins and outs. My time here at NMU in the ORLM program has been well spent and I feel like I have gained a new appreciation for the field and all it has to offer.

Aside from all academics, I have met so many of people that I can say have become some of the most important people in my life, all through this program. The PEIF offers all ORLM students a place where they can branch out and be who they really are, you don’t have to get all dressed up and spiffy looking like you do when you walk around Jamrich or anywhere else on campus. Something about the PEIF I will miss, it’s hard to put a finger on it but I think it’s the overall atmosphere it gives us as student. It’s a very unorthodox and informal place to learn. I never in a million years thought I would say this but I am going to truly miss school. I have learned so much and met so many amazing people. College is just about over and the “real life” is about to hit me before I know it. Time to keep on pushing and put forth what I’ve learned into full action. Onward I go.