GUIDING PHILOSOPHIES

The Physical Activity Course (PAC) Program, a component of the School of Biological and Population Health Sciences within the College of Public Health and Human Sciences at Oregon State University, provides an environment for the application of the concepts inherent within the disciplines of the College and strives to support Healthy Goals 2000. The primary mission of the PAC Program is to provide all Oregon State University students with the knowledge and experience to make intelligent decisions regarding present and future physically active lifestyles. The Program also provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate Health and Human Science students to enhance their skills and apply concepts learned in professional classes.

The intent of the PAC Program is to provide a quality instruction in safe, adequately equipped facilities and to create a positive, enjoyable environment for learning. Recognizing individual interest and abilities, the Program offers courses covering a wide variety of physical activities. Offerings may include but are not limited to classes in the areas of aquatics; artistic, international, and social dance; fitness development; martial; outdoor recreation; resistance training; sports and games. The PAC Program makes efforts to address contemporary trends and student interests.

OVERVIEW OF PAC PROGRAM

The Physical Activity Course Program consists of credit elective classes open to all Oregon State University students. Most courses are one credit. Total enrollment for the year surpassed 17,000 in 2001. A limited number of classes is offered in the summer. As many as 250 sections of classes are offered and are taught by full time faculty in BPHS, graduate teaching assistants in BPHS, athletic coaches, and community people hired as part time instructors. The director’s office is located in the PAC office, 123 Langton, where the office manager for PAC is also located.

Full time faculty teaching within the PAC Program serve as facilitators in various activity areas. Their responsibilities include recommendation of equipment purchase, orientation of new instructors, facility concerns, curriculum design, assistance in scheduling and logistics. Although these faculty are not directly responsible for supervision of instructors, the coordinator considers input from them in matters of supervision. The chair of BPHS appoints an Activity Committee comprised of full-time faculty teaching within the Program, facilitators, one representative from the part time PAC faculty, one PAC graduate teaching assistant, and two undergraduate students. The Activity Committee is responsible for establishing policy and procedure, approving curriculum, and guiding the director.

Students receive one or two academic credit(s) for successful completion of a PAC and may choose to take the class either for a grade or on an S/U (Successful/Unsuccessful) basis. Undergraduate students may count 11 credits of PAC towards graduation and may repeat the same class as many as 11 times. OSU recognizes PAC courses as repeatable courses; therefore, all grades earned count toward GPA. Undergraduate students may use any PAC to fulfill the laboratory requirement for Lifetime Health and Fitness, the baccalaureate core requirement.

Because the Program is not fully supported financially by the State System of Higher Education, there is an additional fee for each PAC. Two credit courses have a higher additional fee than one credit courses. Collection of fees is through the University billing system and is not
the responsibility of the instructors or the PAC office. Instructors in the PAC Program strive to present fun, informative, motivating classes worthy of academic credit. Although teaching in the PAC Program may not be the first priority of GTAs, it is expected that they work to uphold the tradition of excellence established by dedicated instructors over many years.

UNIVERSITY COMMITMENT

As a land grant institution committed to teaching, research, and outreach and engagement, Oregon State University promotes economic, social, cultural and environmental progress for the people of Oregon, the nation and the world. This mission is achieved by producing graduates competitive in the global economy, supporting a continuous search for new knowledge and solutions, and maintaining a rigorous focus on academic excellence, particularly in the three Signature Areas: Advancing the Science of Sustainable Earth Ecosystems; Improving Human Health and Wellness; and Promoting Economic Growth and Social Progress. The PAC Program directly addresses the University’s signature area, Improving Human Health and Wellness, and helps the University meet two of its goals in this signature area: providing outstanding academic programs and providing excellent teaching and learning environments.

In accordance with OSU policies and beliefs the PAC Program strives to accommodate all individuals on an equal basis. This includes students with disabilities. The PAC Program strives to create an affirming climate for all students including underrepresented and marginalized individuals and groups. Diversity encompasses differences in age, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender, physical or mental ability, religion, socioeconomic background, veteran status, sexual orientation, and marginalized groups. We believe diversity is the synergy, connection, acceptance, and mutual learning fostered by the interaction of different human characteristics.

Accommodations for people with disabilities are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 737-4098.

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