

Successes and Challenges Towards Institutionalizing URSCA at UW-Parkside

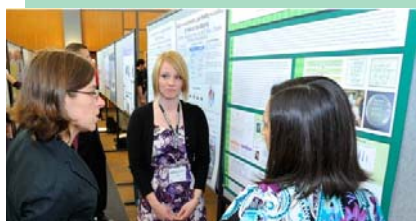


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Institutional Overview:

- ◆ Comprehensive University
- ◆ 4,500 undergraduates, 125 graduate students
- ◆ Diverse student population: 23% undergraduates are underrepresented minorities, 56% first-generation, and 20% non-traditional student.
- ◆ History of URSCA at UW-Parkside:
 - *Historical emphasis on student-faculty collaborative research among some departments and majors*
 - *Strong promotion and support for student participation & presentation at local and regional research conferences*
 - *2011 & 2012: hosted state-wide University of Wisconsin System's URSCA Symposium*



Short and Long Term Goals & Strategies for Improving URSCA at UW-Parkside:

Goal 1: Build the Vision and Raise Awareness of URSCA:

- Strategy 1:** *Embed URSCA and high-impact practices within general goals and mission of university and the University Academic Plan.*
- Strategy 2:** *Determine and document URSCA activities on campus so as to identify areas of success and areas of greatest need.*
- Strategy 3:** *Assess best ways to link URSCA and student recruitment and retention.*

Goal 2: Create Infrastructure To Support URSCA:

- Strategy 1:** *Create an URSCA Office and web/media presence on campus to support students in all disciplines / majors.*
- Strategy 2:** *Develop policies across campus and within departments that include URSCA for faculty workload.*

Goal 3: Establish Well-Funded and Sustainable URSCA:

- Strategy 1:** *Seek and secure internal funding for URSCA.*
- Strategy 2:** *Seek and secure external funding for URSCA.*



Successes:



- ◆ Departments assessed URSCA activities to determine number of students doing URSCA (*see table below*)
- ◆ Averaged 38.2 students / department / year involved in URSCA activities in 2011 and 2012 (*range: 4.2 to 159.6*)
- ◆ 2012-2013 university-wide strategic planning included embedding URSCA goals and mission in latest University Academic Plan and prior to review by Higher Learning Commission (HLC) spring 2013.
- ◆ Identified institutional areas of greatest need that will be focus for improving and increasing URSCA

Department	Independent Study/Research ("499")	Internship Projects ("494")	# students/year
Art	12.4	64.4	76.8
Biological Sciences	31.0	26.0	57.0
Business	35.6	29.8	65.4
Chemistry	7.6	0.0	7.6
Communication	26.0	16.8	42.8
Criminal Justice	32.0	15.4	47.4
Geography	4.6	15.8	20.4
Geosciences	8.4	6.8	15.2
Health, Exercise Science, & Sports Management	128.8	30.8	159.6
Math/Physics	0.0	4.2	4.2
Music	3.4	17.2	20.6
Psychology	4.2	32.0	36.2
Sociology & Anthropology	16.6	29.4	46.0
Theatre	85.4	18.8	104.2



Challenges:

- ◆ Constraints on students' time:
 - Many students work 20+ hours per week
 - Non-traditional students have off campus commitments
 - Many students commute, limiting time on campus
- ◆ Resource limitations, including:
 - Funding for direct support of students (*stipends & supplies*)
 - Faculty time and resources (*supplies & equipment*)
- ◆ Varying definitions, standards and expectations of URSCA
- ◆ Differences across campus on how/if URSCA counts toward faculty workload or tenure & promotion

Immediate Future Priorities:

- ◆ Develop a campus URSCA Office to provide infrastructure, share opportunities and coordinate activities
- ◆ Create a campus URSCA committee to engage more faculty
- ◆ Seek sustainable internal and external funding for URSCA

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