

Interdisciplinary Studies: Sport Management

John Donald

Faculty Committee: Dr. Lyle Rupert & Dr. Ralph Scott

**Departments: Economics/Business, Biology, Kinesiology, Theatre Arts & Dance
& Philosophy**

Throughout my life sports played a key role in shaping who I am. Sports showed me how to work with a team, how to prepare myself mentally and physically, and how to lead a group of people in order to achieve a goal. From a young age, I aspired to play on the professional level of either football or baseball, but through my hard work I could not grow taller than 5 feet 9 inches. With this fact in mind, I had to determine whether I should give up entirely on a professional sports career or look to another aspect of professional sport and pursue it. When I began my college search I noticed not many liberal arts schools offered a Sport Management major, which is why when I narrowed my decision to a few schools I selected Hendrix. When the major would no longer be offered after two years of completing courses, I knew that I would have the opportunity to create this interdisciplinary studies major. By creating my own major it allows me to tailor a Interdisciplinary Studies major how I had predicted a Sport Management major to look like, along with the guidance of professor who had Sport Management background.

With that, the interdisciplinary studies major that I am proposing is Sport Management. This course will help prepare me for the world of sport, whether it is in a Front Office or in an Athletic Department. The courses prepared in this proposal will resemble that of the prior Kinesiology – Sport Management major, but with a larger emphasis on business. Rather than a standard Business degree, this major will include courses that will assist in preparing me for career related issues. This allows for the Sport Management to be more like a traditional Sport Management major at most schools, with a background in Kinesiology, but with an emphasis on developing the student's business knowledge. Dr. Lyle Rupert, Professor Sheila Rupert and Dr. Ralph Scott assisted in putting this course list together for what they feel will best prepare me for graduate school and this career field. Of these courses I added one class that I felt would be important, The Art of Public Speaking. This career field requires you to work with different groups of people, so by taking this course it allows me to acquire proper techniques for the messages I am trying to relay.

Courses:

Kinesiology:

KINE 230 Foundations of Kinesiology

KINE 400 Management of Sport

KINE 370 Fitness Assessment

& Exercise Prescription

KINE 475 Administration of College Coaching

All will be taken this year (2015-2016)

Business:

BUSI 200 Accounting I

BUSI 210 Accounting II

BUSI 330 Cost Accounting

ECON 410 Corporate Finance

BUSI 410 Advanced Cost Accounting

BUSI 350 Business Law

ECON 200 Microeconomics

BUSI 290 International Marketing

Biology:

BIOL 103 Biology of the Human Body

**This was a course previously required for the
Kinesiology – Sport Management Degree**

Theatre Arts & Dance:

TART 110 Art of Public Speaking

Philosophy:

PHIL 215 Ethics and Society

Senior Capstone:

That of the prior Kinesiology – Sport Management major:

Research Project: This option includes completion of an applied research project in Kinesiology.

Or

Internship: This option includes a paper and presentation based on a practical internship experience.

I am currently trying to get an internship with the Arkansas Travelers, a minor league baseball affiliate of the Los Angeles Angels. With this internship I will work hands on with the General Manager, setting up events, selling tickets, maintaining structure within the organization, and adding my knowledge and skill in whatever they might need. This internship will prepare me for one of the areas I am interested in working in, the Front Office. Of the four front office personnel currently working for the Travelers, three did internships while in college with them. The only one that didn't had been working in the minor leagues for 10 plus year. So because of their willingness to hire their interns, this will allow me to have an opportunity to possibly work with them once I have completed my schooling.

If I cannot get this internship I am also looking at doing an internship in our athletic program, whether that being an intern for the Assistant Athletic Director Thad McCracken or with the Athletic Director Amy Weaver. This internship will prepare me for the other career path I am seeking. By working directly with either one of these Athletic Directors I will learn the ins and outs of how a successful athletic department is run. They are currently searching for a Heads Men's Soccer Coach, so I would learn how the process works in hiring a new position. This internship will open the door within our athletic department as well as those who our Athletic Directors know. With either of these I will conduct it through the Career Services Office. I will also write a paper about what I have learned and how I can tie what I have learned in the classroom setting with the real world experience, and I will present this to my committee at the end of my internship.

Student and Faculty Signatures:

Lyle Rupert

Dr. Lyle Rupert

Ralph Scott

Dr. Ralph Scott

John Donald

John Donald

Date:

12/16/15

12/17/15

12/16/15