

## Request for Program Discontinuation

<b>Summary:</b>	
Name of Program being Discontinued:	<b>Bachelor of Recreation and Leisure Studies 3-Year Pass Degree</b>
Academic Unit housing the Program:	<b>Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies</b>
Date Discontinuation to become effective:	<b>June 2024</b>
Name of person submitting:	<b>Tim O’Connell</b>
Email of person submitting:	<a href="mailto:toconnell@brocku.ca">toconnell@brocku.ca</a>
Date of Submission:	<b>February 23, 2024</b>

The Request for Program Discontinuation shall include:

<b>Rationale for the Proposed Discontinuation</b>
Provide a clear rationale for the request, documenting the results of program committee discussions.
<p>At the time the 3-year BRLS was introduced, all programs had a 3-year 15-credit “pass” degree and a 4-year 20-credit “honours” degree. Only students with honours standing were permitted to stay for a 4<sup>th</sup> year. However, nearly all programs, including Recreation and Leisure Studies, have modified their 4<sup>th</sup> year to be open to all students who maintain a minimum average. In the process, units across campus have discontinued the 3-year pass degrees.</p> <p>Since both the 3-year and the 4-year degree share a name (Bachelor of Recreation and Leisure Studies), there is no clear differentiation between the two. This creates confusion for students and the pass degree does a disservice to the students who graduate with the 4-year degree.</p> <p>The Faculty of Applied Health Sciences now has a 3-year Bachelor of Applied Health (pass) degree, providing students an option to complete their studies in 3 years and remain within the Faculty. With this option well established and the introduction of a general (no concentration) 20 credit BRLS, students have the flexibility and options available that made the 3-year degree desirable to students in the past.</p> <p>Removing the pass degree will allow the Department to plan course offerings more strategically by only considering 4-year curriculum progressions. It will also allow for scaffolding and more certainty around the type of experiential education students engage in across the 4 years.</p> <p>The Department approved the motion to discontinue the degree on January 16, 2024.</p>
<b>Details of Resource Implications</b>
Describe how resources of the program (human, physical and budgetary) will be redistributed.
The courses associated with the pass degree are the same for the 4-year degree. Therefore, no resource redistribution will be required.
<b>Termination Plan and Timing of Discontinuation</b>
A phased closure plan and timeline for the program discontinuation, taking into account the requirements of those students currently enrolled in the program to allow them to meet requirements for graduation.
Students currently enrolled in the 3-year BRLS will be permitted to complete their studies and graduate. No students will be admitted to or allowed to transfer into the BRLS 3-Year Pass Degree after September 1, 2024.

**Evidence and Documentation of Consultation**

Include the results of any consultation with other units (academic and/or administrative) that will be impacted by the program discontinuation.

No academic units are affected by this proposal. Therefore, no consultation was conducted. The Office of the Registrar was consulted on February 23, 2024 regarding a termination plan and communication plan with students currently in the program. The Department will be working with the Office of the Registrar to finalize and implement these plans.

**Decanal Comments**

Include certification that the proposed discontinuation is appropriate and in line with the strategic direction of the Faculty or Faculties.

For **undergraduate programs**, the relevant Dean(s) shall be the Dean(s) of the Faculty within which the program resides.

For **graduate programs**, the relevant Deans shall be the Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs and the Dean(s) of the relevant Faculty or Faculties.

A letter from Dr. Peter Tiidus is attached.

February 7, 2024

I am in support of the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies (RECL) proposal to discontinue the three year Bachelor of Recreation and Leisure Studies (BRLS) degree. As indicated in the proposal, this will allow for more rationalized planning of course offerings, consolidate the BRLS four year degree, and facilitate student experiential education.

The existing FAHS three year Bachelor of Applied Health (pass) degree will still allow RECL students to opt for a three year degree completion pathway, hence not limiting this option and the new general (no concentration) option in the four year BRLS also serves the flexibility needs of some of the students who previously had opted for the three year BRLS. It is expected that this change will also facilitate student retention.

The discontinuance of the three year BRLS degree will benefit program planning, student learning and BRLS degree consolidation and I am fully supportive of this proposal.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Tiidus", with a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Tiidus, Ph.D.  
Dean

Dr. Peter Tiidus  
Dean

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