

Hospitality & Tourism Management to offer master's degree starting Fall 2009

Combined, hospitality and tourism management make up one of the world's largest industries. As the industry continues to grow, Kent State University will be offering students the opportunity to advance their education.

Starting in fall 2009, Kent State will be the only university in Ohio to offer a master's program integrating hospitality and tourism management.

"Ohio is the eighth most visited state in the nation," said Dr. Barbara Scheule, associate professor of hospitality management. "We have strategically positioned this graduate program at Kent State because it is a prime location for growth and development."

Dr. Philip Wang, associate professor of park, recreation, and tourism management said the graduate program will build upon the successful undergraduate tourism and hospitality management degrees, but the education will be more extensive.

"Students will be required to do more research and data collection on issues pertaining to hospitality and tourism management," Scheule said. "A greater appreciation for making executive-level decisions will be gained."

The curriculum will emphasize economic, social and environmental perspectives, as well as global competences. In addition, students will learn valuable industry management skills by combining intellectual creativity with theoretical and practical issues of importance for leaders in hospitality and tourism fields. The Hospitality Management Industry Advisory Board members have been enthusiastic about the new master's program at Kent State University.

Kent State faculty in Hospitality and Tourism Management offer a wealth of diversity and experience to share with the students. Students will study global issues of tourism to build better awareness and cultural sensitivity. Since faculty has already established international and domestic ties, opportunities to study abroad in locations including China and Uganda are currently available. Further study abroad opportunities in locations such as Italy and France are being explored. Already, Kent State has received inquiries about the new program from international students who are interested in getting involved.

"We look forward to having the combined Hospitality and Tourism Management graduate program available at Kent State to offer students the unique opportunity to enrich their education and succeed in a growing industry," Scheule said. "Because of the vast experience in this program, students will have greater job prospects and the opportunity to advance within the industry."

In addition to the application requirements of the university, admission to graduate study in tourism and hospitality management requires an undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 and three letters of reference. Applicants should also provide a resume and letter of application describing their professional and research goals. Prior work experience in hospitality or tourism is also preferred.

For more information about the new master's degree program, call 330-672-3796 or visit the program web pages at <http://www.ehhs.kent.edu/hm/> or <http://www.ehhs.kent.edu/rptm/>.

###