

June 13, 2017 Seniors Exit Interview Discussion

1. **Concentration and Anticipated Plans Following Graduation**

Removed these responses to protect student identity – 11 attendees

2. **Up to this point – what has been your most valuable learning experience at Cal Poly?**

working on auction

Open House

working with faculty

plan events

internship requirement as part of curriculum that makes a valuable transition period that other majors don't have

invited by faculty, i.e., Luis Wine Bar – learn how to interact with professionals

classes: prof. dev., customer service, leadership – RPTA 221 and RPTA 257

PR and Business classes

Helps you decide what you want to do

Guest speakers – making the initial connection

EIM Career Fair – important to make connections

1000 hours – allows you to find what you like

RPTA/Rho Phi Lambda – networking events and study abroad w/classmates

EIM – opportunities to explore, network, - shifted my way of looking at careers

Most of our projects focused on group projects – teamwork and collaboration

RPTA 360 [excel] class – used this the most

Learn by doing – creating an event

Open House Committee – Dr. Lin gave us so much freedom – student based activity

3. **How would your Cal Poly RPTA experience be different if there were no co-curricular activities or opportunities?**

Senior Project in destination tourism led me to my job

Everything I've learned is from the experiences not the classroom

Develop and grow with people already in the industry, faculty

Enhances what we learn in the classroom

Classes: RPTA 257 and RPTA 210 – the co-curricular adds a lot to class

Zero experience – is not really true when you are entering the work force as you are bringing weighted co-curricular activity on your resume

Building relationships w/faculty and peers – increases collaboration

4. **Please reflect and share your thoughts regarding whether or not your education has helped you with your written and verbal communication skills, and your ability to think critically and creatively.**

Creativity – problem solving in group work

Gained verbal skills – being able to speak well – from many group presentations

ENGL 310 and Dr. Sturm's classes – written communications

ENGL 145 – no fluffing – core info in writing

Professional philosophy – writing

RPTA 405 – final paper = 30 pages

Every project has a written portion to it

Group projects – add APA to earlier writing assignments

Critical thinking – GE and Area A

5. **How do you feel about your ability to design and implement programs, services and experiences, and your ability to interpret data and evaluate these programs, services and experiences?**

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More confident in implementing – not design – making it happen

Creative teams using someone else's design – so implementing is more important

Yes evaluation and how to fix it

Learned how to design in RPTA 320 and RPTA 420 and Dr. Lin

Day of event – lots of critical thinking – have to problem solve

Amber's class RPTA 320 – she showed examples of design and final project was to create an events

6. Please discuss your comfort level in the strategic management and operations of employees and participants in programs, events, and service-based experiences

Experiences

RPTA 405 learned it but not ever managed

Comfortable with supervisory because of 1000 hours

Felt capable – RPTA 260 – managed group

BUS 384 – more comfortable knowing recruiting, employee motivation – really helpful class

Need to lead as a volunteer – 1000 hours – delegate to employee, volunteer

RPTA Club – hard to learn how to delegate – outside experience helped with learning

7. Have your experiences in RPTA helped you to work independently and collaboratively in groups and projects?

Ability to recognize personal strengths – what we are good at

Didn't get many opportunities in individual work

How to work with people – because of group projects

Fair share – more working in groups RPTA 420 working individually

Dr. Sturm's class made individual video, budget had to do it on our own – and grateful to be able to work individually

Forces you to meet other people

At the senior level – consistent experience for all students

8. How prepared are you in Marketing and Experiential Marketing?

Experiential marketing RPTA 370 Jenn's class opened up my eyes and I received more marketing in BUS 346

Marketing – social media – did not like BUS 346

BUS 346 pushed me a lot – different major and environment

So much marketing – experience marketing and marketing class

Faculty help us understand the concept but not hands-on

Recommend go to experiential marketing event – a real interaction – hands on software

RPTA 370 loved Jenn's class – we were able to choose something we enjoyed – we were more into it

BUS 346 different but helpful – excited about the future of students with the new concentrations and major – more valuable

9. How prepared are you to interpret budgets and analyze financial documents?

BUS 212 – did not understand budgets

Beneficial to add budgets into events classes

RPTA 424 – bring back individual budget project

Need integration of event & budget

BUS 212 and RPTA 424 – got an experience but I don't understand it – helpful to do it on your own

Negotiating – professionally – etiquette covered in RPTA320/420 possibly

RPTA 424 should be earlier – budget should be introduced early

Budgeting classes early on – more prepared helpful to bring back

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RPTA 424 was specific to events – no business plan – should be entrepreneurial – business start-up
Was theoretical – not enough hands on
Need to focus shift RPTA 424 towards the money side – not accounting

10. How prepared do you feel to facilitate and lead experiences for diverse populations and work with a diverse global society?

Love the diversity and leadership classes
Rho Phi Lambda gave tours to middle school students [under-represented]
Dr. G. – love the ability to interact with diverse populations
RPTA 257 was great but could use more maybe in other classes – continuously through all four years

11. What do you think of adding employee experiences to RPTA 405 – e.g. why do you have ‘bring your dog to work’ day? Would it be too much overlap with other classes? [this is an additional probing question]

RPTA 405 - a great place to do it
Might seem repetitive
Employee experiences is getting bigger
RPTA 221 might be a good place for it
Makes you think about company culture and where you want to work

12. Please reflect and share whether or not your experiences in RPTA have helped raise your awareness of issues related to sustainability.

RPTA 412 Dominican Republic – hands-on focused on sustainability
RPTA 313 class – the way Dr. Ru taught it made me want to know more about sustainability
Important to incorporate sustainability in RPTA 320/420
RPTA 317 – Dr. Lin did a good job introducing sustainability

13. Following your education at Cal Poly, how committed do you think you will be to lifelong learning?

100% - I want to enroll at Cuesta
Fields we are entering – will constantly change
Need to keep up with the trends
Need to master
Senior project important
Events – how do we get CMP certified?
Dr. Lin explained that [CMP] – need it to stay at the forefront of our career
You put in a lot, you will get ‘life-long learning out’
Increase/engage students to show up
Develop strategies to get students engaged

14. What are the strengths of the RPTA major?

Huge community of support
Faculty care beyond the classroom – our lives matter
School is only a part of what we are doing
Faculty bring a passion to the students and help students realize how it fits
Advisory council – wish more students could have the opportunity to meet – reach out

15. What was the most difficult class?

RPTA 313, 460, 360 [excel difficult to learn] – why is 460 a paper? Should be doing a project for this major.
Part of senior project is ownership
Senior project really beneficial – synthesizing information and writing

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RPTA 460 - Bring it up with employers as project example

16. What are the weaknesses of the RPTA curriculum?

A lot of repetition in classes RPTA 320=RPTA 420

Major could be called event planning – only took one sport management class as a sport mgmt. conc.

Struggled when searching for job – salary negotiation – implement into class

1000 hours, internship, senior project – pay tuition – we've put in so many hours already in other internships – I completed three unofficial internships but delayed graduation due to internship when I would rather take two more classes instead

17. What was the easiest class?

RPTA 424, 320, 360 {excel makes sense, easy for me}

18. What piece of advice would you share with incoming students to the major?

Get involved – get as much out as you put in

Get into everything as soon as you can

Develop a relationship with faculty ASAP

Alumni want to give you jobs

Take other classes – psych class - mix up everything –

Diversify your experience to find out what you want to do

Get minor – talking point – shows well rounded