

# Gaming Research Tip Sheet

.....quick start for studies, reports and papers

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## Tip Sheet #25: Gaming Education

**Prep for the industry.** Since gaming is linked with the larger field of hospitality, colleges and universities offer courses leading to gaming management positions in their hotel curriculum.

Cities with gaming are the ones most likely to train students. However, a peculiar thing occurs in Mississippi, a riverboat casino state, that forbids using state funds to teach about gambling.

**Locating schools.** Get familiar with Hotel College offerings but don't overlook related fields that may feature gaming courses, such as Business Administration, or Culinary programs.

Las Vegas (UNLV) and Reno (UNR) are prominent in the gaming training field. For a complete list see the Education Directory on the [Hospitality News](#) web site. It covers U.S. and international schools. Few details are given but you get a direct link to each school for more information.

**What is taught.** Some gaming courses teach details of the games for background information and depth of understanding in gaming management.

Others train for specific games-handling jobs. At the community college level students can learn to work the gaming floor as dealers, keno runners, croupiers. The Community College of Southern Nevada is a good source.

Gaming laboratories at colleges and universities are equipped with tables, chips, dice, cards and slot machines. At UNLV the lab has a fully operating surveillance system for monitoring casino games.

Students have many choices from one or two courses to college majors and degrees in gaming. The more concentrated and extensive the study, the more depth and insight into the industry.

**Course titles.** Here are sample courses that may give clues to their content.

- Casino Operations Management
- Introduction to the Casino
- Casino Marketing
- Commercial Gaming Law
- Tourism Marketing
- Accounting for the Gaming Industry
- Resort Management
- Protection of Casino Games
- Casino Accounting & Control
- Theories of Casino Gaming
- Gaming Regulations & Controls
- Casino Cage Operations
- Slot Management
- Sociology of Gaming
- Techniques of Blackjack

**Executive education.** Top casino executives are hired more for experience, reputation and recommendation than formal education. Their backgrounds are varied and job descriptions of a casino CEO are rare.

To fill in the gaps of intermittent or haphazard training the University of Nevada, Reno offers its Executive Development Program, where executives from around the world go on a weeklong retreat to network and learn new ideas.

#### **Casino Management Association.**

Actively involved in standards and qualifications, the CMA offers training and also sells videotaped seminars, such as the one on MIS (Integrated Systems) , or What Your Players Want from Your Slot Club.

**Continuing education.** Research institutes, consultants and gaming associations offer training to people in the industry sometimes for Continuing Education (CE) credits. Depending on the subject those attending may be attorneys, gaming regulators, managers, and Indian gaming officials.

The UNLV International Gaming Institute and the Center for the Study of Gambling & Commercial Gaming at UNR are quite active.

Annual conventions and expos combine study sessions with new product publicity and demonstrations in a less formal, networking atmosphere.

**Educational videos.** Search gamblers' bookstores online for videos that explain gaming. While some videos are made

for players wanting to improve their skills, others can be useful to managers.

On television, the Travel Channel, the History Channel and Discovery have produced a number of videos on gambling, usually available for purchase.

#### **Suggested topics for research.**

- distinctions between a gaming concentration and a degree
- provisions for educating gaming commissioners and board members
- components of a gaming technology seminar
- elements of gaming licensing and enforcement for lawyers
- a survey of textbooks used in gaming courses
- importance of gaming courses in resumes and interview
- comparison and critique of gaming law courses taught in law schools

#### **For more information.**

*Hospitality & Tourism Educator.* (journal).

Issues facing education in an emerging aspect of tourism: The gaming industry. Cummings, L. & Brewer, K. *Journal of Tourism Research*, 21 (2), 63-68.

Using benchmarking techniques in academia: Building a gaming education program. Ivancevich, S. H., et al. *Gaming Research & Review Journal*, 5(1), 47-56.