Recreation Professions

The Recreation Professions program in the Department of Public Health and Recreation Professions offers a broad interdisciplinary program of studies preparing students for administrative careers in recreation management, therapeutic recreation or outdoor recreation leadership and management. The program leads to the Master of Science in Education degree with a major in recreation. This program requires a nonrefundable $65 application fee that must be submitted with the application for Admissions to Graduate Study in Recreation Professions. Applicants can pay this fee by credit card when applying electronically.

Master of Science in Education Degree

Graduate work in recreation professions stresses administration and research and is open to highly-qualified students with a minimum 3.0 grade point average. All students must be admitted to the Graduate School in good standing.

Graduate students in recreation professions must complete a minimum of 36 semester hours including a theory core and a research core. The research core is completed by fulfilling requirements for the thesis, the non-paper, or the internship options.

The thesis option requires three semester hours of research methods and three semester hours of thesis. After completing the required research methods course, each student should select a chairperson for the thesis committee. A minimum of two additional graduate faculty members, one holding rank outside the faculty of recreation, is needed to form the full committee. After approval of a thesis topic, the students will conduct a research effort under the committee's guidance, followed by an oral examination.

The non-paper option requires three semester hours of research methods and three semester hours of project in recreation. The research project or paper may be field-based or applied and will be supervised by an academic adviser who is a graduate faculty member in recreation. The research project or paper must be approved by one additional graduate faculty member.

The internship option requires three semester hours of research methods and three semester hours of supervised field work. The field work must be completed under the supervision of a professional working in the student's area of professional interest and must be overseen by an academic adviser who is a graduate faculty member in recreation.

In addition to the completion of the theory and research core in either the thesis or non-paper option, the student will select an additional 21 emphasis hours. By utilizing electives, the student can focus on a specific option or emphasis. This emphasis may include recreation administration, focusing on skills necessary for management in the commercial and public sector including local, state, and federal recreation programs; outdoor leadership and management which focuses on skills necessary to manage or administer programs, facilities, and lands for a variety of outdoor recreation providers and organizations (this emphasis could lead to certifications); or therapeutic recreation which focuses on skills necessary in the management of therapeutic recreation (recreational therapy) programs in a variety of health care and human service organizations (this emphasis could lead to certification). Variations of these include campus recreation management, expedition leadership and facility management.

All students must maintain a minimum 3.0 (4.0 point scale) grade point average and earn a C or better in Theory and Research Core classes to be eligible to graduate.
Recreation Graduate Degree (36 hours total)

Required Core Courses for all Tracks (18 hours)

- REC 500-3    Modern Concepts of Leisure (Fall)
- REC 503-3    Management & Marketing (Spring)
- REC 508-3    Trends and Global Issues in Leisure Services (Fall)
- REC 550-3    Research in Recreation (Spring)

One of:

- REC 501, REC 502, REC 526, REC 560A, REC 560B, REC 560C, REC 565

One of:

- REC 599-3    Thesis
- REC 575-3    Project in Recreation
- REC 596-3    Internship in Recreation
- REC 597-3    Internship in Recreational Therapy

Track Requirements (18 hours)

Recreation Administration

- REC 425-3    Planning & Design of Recreation Facilities (Fall)
- REC 465-3    Human Resources for Recreation Professions (Spring)
- REC 466-3    Community Recreation (Fall)
- REC 467-3    Commercial Recreation (Spring)
- REC 468-3    Campus Recreation (Summer)

Elective

Outdoor Recreation

- REC 430-3    Outdoor Living Skills (Fall)
- REC 432-3    Environmental Issues and Ethics in Outdoor Recreation (Spring)
- REC 445-3    Outdoor Recreation Management (Spring)

Elective x 3

Therapeutic Recreation

- REC 404-3    Foundations of Recreational Therapy (Fall)
- REC 460-3    Administration of RT Services (Summer)
- REC 461-3    RT Assessment & Documentation (Spring)

3 courses from:

- REC 405 (Fall)
- REC 406 (Fall)
- REC 407 (Spring)
- REC 524
- REC 525

NCTRC Requirements:

- Allied Health 241*
- Public Health 311*
- Psychology 331*

*not for graduate credit
Recreation Professions Courses

Recreation Professions Faculty

Colson, Tina, Associate Lecturer, MS, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2004; 2005.
Croft, Brian, Lecturer, MS, Southern Illinois University, 2013.
Glover, James M., Associate Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., University of Maryland, 1980; 1984.
Glover, Regina B., Associate Professor, Emerita, Ph.D., University of Maryland, 1983; 1983.
Hollman, Alissa, Lecturer, MS, Illinois State University, 2011.
Kim, Jun, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of Utah, 2013; 2015.
McEwen, Douglas N., Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., Michigan State University, 1973; 1975.
Tanner, Emily, Assistant Lecturer, M.S.Ed., Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2006; 2017.

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Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901
Phone: (618) 453-2121

Catalog Year Statement:
Students starting their collegiate training during the period of time covered by this catalog (see bottom of this page) are subject to the curricular requirements as specified herein. The requirements herein will extend for a seven calendar-year period from the date of entry for baccalaureate programs and three years for associate programs. Should the University change the course requirements contained herein subsequently, students are assured that necessary adjustments will be made so that no additional time is required of them.