

What is Recreation and Leisure Studies?

The program in Recreation and Leisure Studies (RLS) at the University of Tennessee prepares students for management and leadership positions in public and private recreation and leisure related agencies and venues. Leisure services management includes, but is not limited to, public and commercial entities, tourism, event management, and sport enterprises, resorts, and therapeutic recreation settings. The RLS curriculum is one of only two programs in the state of Tennessee that is accredited in general recreation by the National Recreation and Park Association's Council on Accreditation.

Students who choose the concentration in commercial recreation/administration gain knowledge, develop a high degree of professional commitment, and gain practical experience to provide leadership in the changing environment of managing complex leisure systems. A business minor is built into the degree requirements. A concentration in therapeutic recreation prepares students for employment in management and leadership positions with agencies that deliver health care services and communities that offer therapeutic recreation services. Students will become proficient in using recreation experiences to treat patients with illnesses, disabilities, or social problems, and help them achieve an independent and satisfying lifestyle.

Career Opportunities in Recreation and Leisure Studies

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the leisure services industry

will be one of the fastest growing and most stable industries in the near future. Graduates with a concentration in commercial recreation/administration will find employment opportunities in a variety of settings such as travel and tourism agencies, convention bureaus, resorts, theme parks, hotels, corporate sector, federal, state and local recreation and park agencies, voluntary and religious organizations.

Those in therapeutic recreation must fulfill the eligibility requirements for certification by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification which qualifies them to secure employment in physical rehabilitation units, children's hospitals, public and private schools, nursing homes, independent living centers, psychiatric institutions, drug and alcohol treatment centers, group homes, and community parks and recreation departments.

Salary Trends in Recreation and Leisure Studies

Salaries in the leisure services industry vary greatly depending upon the specific area of the industry as well as the geographic location in which one chooses to work.

Other factors which may influence earnings are level of education, experience and the specific occupation in the area. Those employed in commercial recreation/administrative positions average between \$20,000 and \$56,000 per year. Those employed in upper-level management positions in public recreation, youth-serving agencies, and the corporate sector, can easily earn six-figure incomes. Recreational therapists' salaries range from \$24,000 (entry-level positions) to \$65,000 (administrators).

High School Preparation

The best high school preparation involves gaining as much voluntary experience as possible in one's chosen area of interest in the broad leisure services industry. Students may choose to volunteer at hospitals, nursing homes

or group homes, work for public parks and recreation departments or YMCAs, YWCAs, etc.

Students should also take the appropriate and necessary courses for admission to the University of Tennessee.

Students must submit standardized test scores, either ACT or SAT. Please note: we consider your highest score from any date you have taken the test. We do not combine scores from different test dates.

How to Major in Recreation and Leisure Studies at UT

Students must meet all university, college and department requirements and must contact the college advising center to declare a major in RLS. Students must hold a 2.5 GPA in order to declare a major in RLS.

Requirements for Recreation and Leisure Studies

- A minimum 2.5 GPA is required for college affiliation and progression to and retention in the major.
- Each student must complete a professional internship (those with TR concentrations must complete an internship with a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS)).

Special Programs, Co-ops and Internships

Students in the recreation and leisure studies program are offered many opportunities for experience in the field. All students must complete two practica, RLS 290 and 390, which are supervised practica in approved agencies offering programs in recreation and/or tourism. Each hour of credit requires 50 clock hours of work. Students must then complete a professional internship during their senior year. They will experience full-time practice for 12–15 weeks in an approved recreation/leisure setting that emphasizes supervisory and administra-

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tive procedures. Those with a TR concentration must complete an internship with a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS). The internship is designed to meet the students' needs and interests, develop professional competencies, apply concepts and theories, and provide a means of evaluation in terms of professional preparation, goals and aspirations. Various agencies in the Knoxville area that offer RLS students opportunities for internships include: Great Smoky Mountain National Park, Gatlinburg Parks and Recreation, Tennessee Rehabilitation Center, Patricia Neal Rehabilitation Center, Peninsula Hospital, and Baptist Hospital.

Highlights of Recreation and Leisure Studies at UT

Students have opportunities to enhance their experience by attending various professional conferences as well as volunteering at various camps for persons with disabilities.

Camp Koinonia, a key element of the RLS program at UT, is a week-long residential outdoor education program for children, ages 7–21, who have a variety of disabilities, including hearing impairment, visual impairment, mental retardation, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, spina bifida, and autism. The program is organized, planned, and conducted by 150 University of Tennessee students as part of a course requirement. At camp, the children have the opportunity to participate in many different activities they might not normally have the opportunity to experience, such as horseback riding, swimming, kickball, and ropes courses. Ropes courses are experiential adventure programs, which offer groups and individuals the opportunity to participate in a series of activities involving mental, physical, and emotional risk taking.

Other camps in which RLS students are able to participate include: Kamp Katerpillar, a camp for children and adolescents dealing with grief, Camp Clubhouse for children with spina bifida, and Vision Camp for children with visual impairments.

Sample Curriculum

Recreation and Leisure Administration Concentration (Accredited in General Recreation by NRPA/AALR)

Freshman Hours Credit

English 101*, 102*	6
Mathematics 125* or 141*	3
Statistics 201*	3
Cultures and Civilizations Electives*	6
Arts and Humanities*	6
Recreation and Leisure Studies 201	4
Communication Studies 210* or 240*	3
Retail and Consumer Sciences 102	3

Sophomore Year

Accounting 200	3
1 English Elective*	3
Economics 201*	4
Recreation and Leisure Studies 320	3
Business Administration 201	4
Recreation and Leisure Studies 290	2
Social Sciences Electives*	3
Natural Sciences Electives*	6

Junior Year

Recreation and Leisure Studies 310, 415	6
Sport Management 450, 370; Recreation and Leisure Studies 440, 470	6
Recreation and Leisure Studies 390	2
Health 310	3
Marketing 300	3
Finance 301	3
Management 300	3
Safety 443; Forestry 321, 423; Political Science 330, 340; Hotel and Restaurant Administration 425	3

Senior Year

Social Sciences Elective*	3
Recreation and Leisure Studies 410, 430 ..	3
2 Electives	9
3 Recreation and Leisure Studies 490	12

Total 120 credit hours

*Meets University General Education Requirement.

1 Must be a Communicating through Writing (WC) course.

Therapeutic Recreation Concentration (Accredited in General Recreation by NRPA/AALR)

Freshman Hours Credit

English 101*, 102*	6
Quantitative Reasoning*	6
Chemistry 100* and 110* or 120* and 130*	8
Child and Family Studies 210*	3
Recreation and Leisure Studies 201	4
Retail and Consumer Sciences 102	1
Psychology 110*	3

Sophomore Year

Child and Family Studies 220	3
Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology 230	5
Communication Studies 210* or 240*	3
Health 310	3
Recreation and Leisure Studies 290	2
Recreation and Leisure Studies 320, 325 ..	6
Philosophy 246 (writing-emphasis course)*	3
Cultures and Civilizations*	6

Junior Year

Exercise Science 332 or Ecology and Evolutionary Biology 240	3-4
Psychology 330	3
1 Professional Support Course Electives ..	3
Arts and Humanities*	6
Recreation and Leisure Studies 310, 425 ..	6
Recreation and Leisure Studies 390	2
Sport Studies 290	3
Electives	3
2 Recreation and Leisure Studies 450; Psychology 409; Health 406, 435; Sociology 414; Special Education 470 ..	3

Senior Year

Exercise Science 411	3
Recreation and Leisure Studies 410, 420, 430	9
Recreation and Leisure Studies 490	12
Electives	4

Total 122-123 credit hours

* Meets General Education Requirements
 1 Courses must be in addition to those specified for the major and must be elected from: Child and Family Studies, Psychology, Sociology, Health, Safety, Recreation and Leisure Studies, Special Education, Human Services, Exercise Science, Sport Studies.
 2 Must select one course from this group.
 3 Must meet guidelines for national NCTRC certification.

Note: This sheet is for general information only. For more specific information on this program refer to the UT catalog at <http://tennessee.edu/catalog> or contact the college.

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