Recreation Management and Leadership
Department of Health & Human Development
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https://chss.wwu.edu/hhd/about

Recreation Management and Leadership Major Application Process

The application process consists of the following four parts. Please email all documents to Jen Leita (HHD advising coordinator) in ONE email: jen.leita@wwu.edu

Applications are currently being accepted for the cohort that begins in spring 2023 and will remain open until all spaces are filled.

Note: The Recreation Management and Leadership major application is separate from the application to Western Washington University. Admission to the major is contingent on admission to Western.

1. **General information:** Please address the bullets below in a PDF document:
   - Date
   - Name
   - Student #
   - Current address
   - WWU email address
   - Other email address
   - Cell phone number
   - College(s) attended: name of college(s), dates attended, area of study, and GPA
   - Work experience (volunteer or paid)
   - Life experience (travel, special experiences, etc.)
   - Leisure interests / recreation skills
   - Interest Area(s): _____Community Recreation _____Therapeutic Recreation _____Outdoor Recreation _____Sustainable Tourism _____Generalist _____Undecided

2. Include a double-spaced, **2-3 page essay** that addresses the following questions (make sure you have your name at the top of the first page). Save as a PDF.
   - Why are you interested in a career in recreation and leisure services?
   - What experiences have fostered your interest in a career in recreation and leisure services?
   - What contributions do you think you can make to the field of recreation and leisure services?
   - What can you contribute to Recreation Management & Leadership and what do you expect to receive from it?
   - Optional: Discuss any other relevant factors that may help us better understand you.

3. Please include an **official <u>or</u> unofficial transcript of <u>all</u> college coursework**, both here at WWU and at any other colleges you have attended. WWU transcripts can be saved as a PDF off Web4U.

4. We will contact you to set up an **interview** with a faculty member after all materials have been submitted. When you sign up for your appointment, make sure to note that you are scheduling an interview so that faculty can review your application materials prior to your meeting.

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Admission to Recreation Management and Leadership is based on the following criteria:

- RECR 201, Foundations of Recreation and Leisure, must be successfully completed (minimum grade of "C") before students may start Phase I. Students who have successfully completed the equivalent of RECR 201 at another college may have it waived with prior permission. (RECR 201 is offered fall and winter quarters only.)
- Grade Point Average: The minimum acceptable GPA is 2.0. However, most students who are admitted to the major have GPAs well above the minimum.
- Interview: The interview includes questions related to the student's background, work and life experiences, interest in recreation and leisure as a career, and academic strengths and weaknesses.
- Essay: See preceding comments on page 1.
- Experience: Paid or volunteer experience in recreation-related positions is preferred. Other relevant work and life experiences are also considered.

Important information about applying to Recreation Management and Leadership:

- Students must have reached sophomore status by the spring quarter they plan to begin the major.
- The number of students admitted to the major each year is limited to about sixty. Since the number of applications may exceed available openings, students should prepare their material carefully and completely.
- Applicants should first email their materials to Jen Leita (jen.leita@wwu.edu), and then we will contact you to set up an appointment for the interview.
- Applications are currently being accepted for the cohort that begins in spring 2022 and will remain open until all spaces are filled.

Bachelor of Arts Degree – Recreation Management and Leadership

Western Washington University's Recreation Management and Leadership major prepares students for careers planning, developing, and delivering leisure services in response to society's need for health, well-being, and quality of life. The curriculum adapts the quarter system to a "Phase" structure. Once admitted to the major, students enter Phase I of the curriculum during spring quarter. They continue through the curriculum as indicated by the schedule below. Students must have at least sophomore status to begin the program, and the Phase curriculum must be completed in sequence.

	FALL	**WINTER**	**SPRING**	**SUMMER**
Freshman	GURs	GURs	GURs	
Sophomore	201/GURs/Support Area	201/GURs/Support Area	Phase I|	
Junior	GURs/Support Area/*	Phase II	GURs/Support Area	Phase III
Senior	Phase IV			

Major Concentration (63 credits): Completion of RECR 201, Phases I, II, III and IV

Support Area (25 credits): In addition to the Phase requirements, Recreation Management and Leadership majors must complete a 25-credit support area. Support area plans are developed with and approved by the student's faculty advisor and may take either the form of a traditional minor or an interdisciplinary study. See HHD advisor Jen Leita for more information.

***Therapeutic Recreation Concentration:** Students in the TR concentration ONLY take RECR 375 and 376 this quarter.

Recreation Management and Leadership Courses

PREREQUISITE COURSE (Fall or winter prior to entering Phase I)

201 Foundations of Recreation and Leisure (4)
Prereq: Sophomore status or permission. Professional course dealing with the history, philosophy, present status, future goals, and challenges of leisure and the recreation service professions.

PHASE I (SPRING) – 15 credits (All students take 260 & 261 and choose one of four courses marked with an asterisk.)

260 Introduction to Recreation Services (6)
Prereq: RECR 201; majors only. This course introduces students to the historical, theoretical, and conceptual foundations of the recreation services industry. The course will provide an overview of how recreation is differentiated from other human service fields and identify and discuss the common core elements of the recreation services system across different sectors (resource management, therapeutic recreation, tourism, community recreation). In addition, the recreation profession will be discussed and grounded in leisure and leisure behavior based on the premise that recreation services should be a force for positive benefits and outcomes and social change.

261 Inclusive Recreation Leadership (6)
Prereq: RECR 201; majors only. Providing inclusive recreation for all people is a required core competency for every recreation professional. The economic, political, legal, and environmental systems in which we operate provide both barriers and opportunities for inclusive leadership and programming. This course will examine the impacts of power and its influence on the application of practicing applied leadership. Core leadership theories (servant leadership as an example) and the systems in which they operate will be examined, including how power manifests in leadership and influences inclusive practice.

271* Introduction to Community Recreation (3)
Prereq: RECR 201; majors only. Introduction to community-based recreation service agencies: philosophies, functions, services, personnel, and facilities. Emphasis on the diversity and inter-relatedness of community recreation service agencies.

272* Introduction to Outdoor Recreation (3)
Prereq: RECR 201; majors only. Introduction to the major professional components of the outdoor recreation field: interpretive services, camping, resource management; programming, private recreation, tourism. Focuses on trends, programs, related professional issues.

274* Introduction to Therapeutic Recreation (3)
Prereq: RECR 201; majors only. This course provides students an introduction to the field of therapeutic recreation. Classes will cover the history, philosophy, and conceptual foundations of current practices as well as provide an overview of groups typically served in therapeutic recreation settings. Classes will focus on recreation as an integral aspect of rehabilitation, social inclusion, and overall quality of life for people with disabilities.

279* Introduction to Tourism (3)
Prereq: RECR 201; majors only. Introduction to the major professional components of tourism: tour development, guiding, visitor services, resort management, and event planning. Also examines history of travel, types of travelers, motives of travel, niche markets, and current trends.

PRE-PHASE II Therapeutic Recreation Concentration <u>ONLY</u> (FALL)

375 Assessment & Documentation in Therapeutic Recreation (4)
Prereq: Declared major in Recreation Management and Leadership or by instructor permission. This course will examine assessment and documentation practices in therapeutic recreation. The focus of the course is on the skills and concepts necessary to complete a comprehensive assessment of clients in a therapeutic recreation environment. Content includes assessment theories and models, assessment methods and practices, test construction, medical terminology, and documentation techniques and strategies.

376 Therapeutic Recreation Program Design (5)
Prereq: Phase I Recreation Management and Leadership major or permission of instructor. The purpose of the course is to develop comprehensive, specific, and individualized therapeutic recreation programs designed for clinical settings. Content includes assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation. Documentation, activity analysis, intervention strategies and techniques, and professional ethics are also studied. Implications and strategies for community recreation inclusion are explored.

PHASE II (WINTER) – 17 credits (All students take 360, 372, and 378 and choose one of four courses marked with an asterisk.)

360 Professional Preparation Seminar (3)
Prereq: Admission to the Recreation Management and Leadership degree program in the Department of Health and Human Development and current student in Phase II of the program. This seminar-style course will be a combination of discussions, reading and writing assignments, workshops, and guest speakers. The ultimate goal of this course is to help students secure their internship placement for RECR 472, and later secure recreation-related employment. Students engaged in this seminar will further develop their internship/job searching skills, as well as their interviewing, resume, E-Portfolio, and cover letter writing skills. The course will also provide students an opportunity to begin networking with other recreation professionals including internship supervisors. Finally, the seminar will give students an opportunity to explore more thoroughly recreation management and leadership as a field and profession. Repeatable to a maximum of 6 credits, including original course.

370* Outdoor Program Development (5)
Prereq: Phase I Recreation Management and Leadership major or permission of instructor. Methods and techniques in the organization, implementation, and evaluation of recreation programs in outdoor settings.

372 Management of Recreation and Leisure Services (5)
Prereq: Phase I Recreation Management and Leadership major or permission of instructor. Entry-level administrative skills associated with managing personnel and organizational resources within parks and recreation systems.

377* Community Recreation (5)
Prereq: Phase I Recreation Management and Leadership major or permission of instructor. An examination of the traditional and alternative models of community development and their connections to recreation programming, aimed at understanding the interrelationships and importance of social, political, and economic dimensions of community.

378 Human Relations: Effective Communication in Therapeutic and Recreation Settings (5)
Prereq: Phase I Recreation Management and Leadership major or permission of instructor. Knowledge of human relations concepts and development of basic helping skills needed by individuals working in therapeutic relationships in outdoor, community, tourism, and institutional settings. Designed to meet certification requirements for therapeutic recreation.

379* Tourism Planning and Development (5)
Prereq: Phase I Recreation Management and Leadership major or permission of instructor. Course will introduce students to the history, concepts, principles, marketing, and planning of ecotourism activities. The focus will be on tours and activities that promote cultural and environmental awareness, community empowerment, and local economic benefits. Emphasis will be on non-western cultures.

380* Therapeutic Recreation Principles, Practices and Techniques (5)
Prereq: Phase I Recreation Management and Leadership major or appropriate experience; written permission. Concentrated analysis of the process and practice of therapeutic recreation. Includes medical terminology, disabling conditions, adaptations, models of health care, rehabilitation techniques, and further examination of the foundations and development of therapeutic recreation. Includes one hour arranged.

PHASE III (SUMMER) – 12 credits

472 Internship (12)
Prereq: Phase II Recreation Management and Leadership major. Full-time supervised professional experience emphasizing functional proficiency under joint sponsorship of university and agency personnel. S/U grading. Students are also required to complete a minimum of 240 hours of approved paid or unpaid field work experience in recreation and leisure services prior to registering for their internship.

PHASE IV (FALL) – 15 credits (All students take 444, 450, and 480 and choose one of four courses marked with an asterisk.)

421* Therapeutic Recreation Trends and Issues (3)
Prereq: Phase III or appropriate experience; written permission. An analysis of trends and issues affecting the profession of therapeutic recreation.

444 Recreation Budgeting and Finance (4)
Prereq: Phase III Recreation Management and Leadership majors or permission of instructor. Principles and techniques of obtaining, budgeting, and managing financial resources in parks and recreation agencies.

450 Recreation Program Evaluation (4)
Prereq: Phase III Recreation Management and Leadership majors or permission of instructor. Quantitative and qualitative methods of program evaluation emphasizing experiential learning, questionnaire design and survey research, interviews, observations, and consensus techniques.

470* Adventure-Based Programming (3)
Prereq: Phase III Recreation Management and Leadership majors or permission of instructor. Methods and techniques in the assessment, design, implementation, and evaluation of adventure programs in enrichment and therapeutic recreation settings.

475* Community Development and Leisure Services (3)
Prereq: Phase III Recreation Management and Leadership majors or permission of instructor. Principles and techniques of using community-driven assets-based models to focus on how recreation and leisure services form coalitions to serve marginalized communities. Case studies are used to examine barriers to and opportunities for community development.

479* Ecotourism: Principles and Practices (3)
Prereq: RECR 379 or permission of instructor. Provides an understanding of the principles and practices of ecotourism. Examines theory, practice, history, terminology, and issues in ecotourism planning and management. Emphasizes sustainable practices as they relate to traveler education, tour planning, and destination development.

480 Leisure and Society (4) – WP3
Prereq: Phase III Recreation Management and Leadership majors. Senior capstone that builds on general education and foundations of professional education. Goal is to synthesize diverse strands of theory and practice into an integrated understanding of recreation and leisure in modern society, with implications for professional service.

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