

### Recreation, Parks & Leisure Services

College of Allied Health & Nursing  
Department of Recreation, Parks And Leisure Services  
213 Highland North • 507-389-2127  
Website: <http://ahn.mnsu.edu/rpls/>

Chair: James Wise

Joy Joyner, Kristi Montandon, Ronald Nickerson, Rachelle Toupence

This program prepares a graduate to become a professional leader, supervisor and/or administrator within the private for profit, private non-profit, and the public sectors of the recreation and leisure services field. The program includes preparation for youth programs, community education, municipal and leisure service programs; a broad variety of therapeutic recreation settings including hospitals, long-term care, advocacy organizations, consultant services; a wide variety of commercial recreation and tourism settings, nature and historical interpretation; private and public park systems including park ranger, research, educational outreach, planning marketing, park operations; and military recreation.

The Department offers a professional core that is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism, and Related Professions (COAPRT) with three career tracks: Leisure Planning and Management, Therapeutic Recreation, and Resource Management.

To be admitted to the major, students need:

- A minimum of 32 semester credit hours
- A minimum cumulative GPA (Minnesota State Mankato and Transfer) of 2.5 or better
- An advisor in the department
- Completion of an application for admission.

Students must also earn a "C" or better in each RPLS class to remain in good standing in the major and be permitted to advance in the program.

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#### POLICIES/INFORMATION

**Practicum Policy.** Each student must complete the practicum requirement. Students are required to enroll in RPLS 495 (9 credits) after completing all course work and RPLS 484. The student must file a practicum application with his/her faculty advisor one semester prior to enrollment in the Practicum. The RPLS faculty advisor must approve the application prior to registration.

Students must meet the following requirements to be eligible to register for Practicum:

- Completion of all other required RPLS coursework with a "C" (2.0) or better in each RPLS class,
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 in the major,
- Completion of Field Experience, and
- Permission from a faculty advisor.

In addition, students must possess personal characteristics that, in the joint professional judgment of program faculty, are conducive to successful professionals in recreation and leisure settings. These include reliability, completion of individual and group assignments on time, consistency of performance, coping with ordinary personal problems, creativity, assertiveness, ethical performance, and a questioning, constructive and critical approach to new ideas. Evaluation of academic work, attitudes and personality must be considered by faculty to assure success in the recreation, parks and leisure services field.

**P/N Grading Policy.** Recreation, parks and leisure services majors and minors must take required courses for a letter grade with the exception that practicum courses must be taken on a P/N basis. Non-majors may elect RPLS courses for pass/no credit where this option is available. A student who receives more than six credits of "F" grades in the program automatically assumes probationary status in the major.

**Transfer Policy.** Transfer students are required to complete a minimum of 40 semester credits of the major at Minnesota State Mankato.

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#### RECREATION, PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES BS

##### Major Common Core

RPLS 272	Introduction to Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services (3)
RPLS 277	Recreation Leadership (3)
RPLS 278	Leisure and Lifestyle (3)
RPLS 376	Program Planning in Rec., Parks, and Leisure Services (3)
RPLS 377	Public Relations (3)
RPLS 379	Management of Parks & Recreation Facilities (3)
RPLS 471W	Research Design in Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services (3)
RPLS 473	Administration of Leisure Time Programs (3)
RPLS 483	Legal Processes in Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services (3)
RPLS 484	Field Experience (1)
RPLS 495	Practicum (9)

##### Major Emphasis: Resource Management

GEOG 373	Introduction to Geography Information Systems (4)
RPLS 282	Wildlife as a Recreational Resource (3)
RPLS 378	Commercial Recreation and Tourism (3)
RPLS 475	Public Land Use Policies (3)
RPLS 478	Review of Outdoor Recreation Research (3)
RPLS 479	Wildland Recreation Management (3)
RPLS 481	Park Planning (3)

##### Major Emphasis: Leisure Planning and Management

RPLS 274	Therapeutic Recreation Services (3)
RPLS 325	Programming for Outdoor Settings (3)
RPLS 465	Event Management (3)
(Choose 9 credits from the following courses - choose 3 courses)	
RPLS 378	Commercial Recreation and Tourism (3)
RPLS 450	Therapeutic Recreation Techniques (3)
RPLS 475	Public Land Use Policies (3)
RPLS 479	Wildland Recreation Management (3)
RPLS 481	Park Planning (3)
RPLS 482	Leisure and Older Adults (3)
RPLS 489	Advancement of the Therapeutic Recreation Profession (3)

##### Major Emphasis: Therapeutic Recreation

RPLS 274	Therapeutic Recreation Services (3)
RPLS 440	Therapeutic Recreation Assessment (3)
RPLS 447W	Therapeutic Recreation Process (3)
RPLS 450	Therapeutic Recreation Techniques (3)
RPLS 482	Leisure and Older Adults (3)
RPLS 489	Advancement of the Therapeutic Recreation Profession (3)

#### NATIONAL CERTIFICATION IN THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

Choose 0 credits - Please see Dr. Wise, Advisor for Therapeutic Recreation

BIOL 220	Human Anatomy (4)
HP 348	Structural Kinesiology and Biomechanics (3)
KSP 235	Human Development (3)
PSYC 455	Abnormal Psychology (4)

##### Other Graduation Requirements

IT 100	Introduction to Computing and Applications (4)
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#### RECREATION, PARKS & LEISURE MINOR

##### Required for Minor (12 credits)

RPLS 272	Introduction to Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services (3)
RPLS 376	Program Planning in Rec., Parks and Leisure Services (3)
RPLS 377	Public Relations (3)
RPLS 473	Administration of Leisure Time Programs (3)

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## RECREATION, PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES

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### **Required for Minor** (Electives, 9 credits)

Choose 9 credits of electives from one of the option areas:

RPLS xxx Leisure Planning & Management

RPLS xxx Therapeutic Recreation

RPLS xxx Resource Management

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### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### **RPLS 272 (3) Introduction to Recreation, Parks & Leisure Services**

A foundation course that introduces the student to the profession of leisure services. Emphasis is placed on recreation in the student's life, the development of the profession, the community leisure service system and careers in recreation, parks and leisure services.

Fall, Spring

#### **RPLS 274 (3) Therapeutic Recreation Services**

This course is designed to be an overview of Therapeutic Recreation Services in a variety of human service settings with emphasis on the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of leisure and recreation programs performed by therapeutic recreation specialists serving persons with physical, mental, emotional or social limitations.

Spring

Diverse Cultures - Purple

#### **RPLS 277 (3) Recreation Leadership**

Through interactive classroom assignments, students develop expertise in planning, leading and evaluating a recreational experience. Foundations of leadership, group dynamics and motivation are also included.

Fall, Spring

#### **RPLS 278 (3) Leisure and Lifestyle**

This course addresses leisure wellness and incorporates leisure into life as a balancing force for healthy living. Leisure is studied in relation to: work, time and money management, stress management, healthy relationships, life choices and decisions, personal and community resources, career opportunities and in relation to current issues in politics and in the work place.

Fall, Spring

GE-11

#### **RPLS 282 (3) Wildlife as a Recreational Resource**

A broad survey course that is concerned with game and non-game wildlife species. Habitat is stressed throughout the course as a necessity for maintaining a species. Funding of wildlife programs and changing attitudes of the public are concerns throughout this course.

Fall, Spring

GE-10

#### **RPLS 325 (3) Programming for Outdoor Settings**

This course exposes the parks and recreation major to basic outdoor skills. The camping movement in America is discussed as well as progressional planning strategies for outdoor recreation.

Fall

#### **RPLS 376 (3) Program Planning in Recreation, Parks, & Leisure Services**

The emphasis of this course is on the program planning process-from creating the idea through evaluation of the program-and how it fits into the agency profile. Various formats such as leisure learning, tournaments, trips and outings, and special events are highlighted for a variety of leisure service agencies.

Fall, Spring

#### **RPLS 377 (3) Public Relations**

Focuses on the total planning, implementation and techniques of effective public relations.

Fall, Spring

#### **RPLS 378 (3) Commercial Recreation and Tourism**

This course is a survey of commercial recreation and tourism that examines the basic types of commercial recreation and tourism providers, some basic trends in commercial recreation and the social, economic and environmental impacts of commercial recreation and tourism.

Fall

#### **RPLS 379 (3) Management of Parks and Recreation Facilities**

This course introduces students to basic management and planning techniques for a wide variety of in-door and out-door recreation facilities.

Fall, Spring

#### **RPLS 440 (3) Therapeutic Recreation Assessment**

Students will learn about and gain experience with assessment as it is practiced in therapeutic recreation settings. The course focuses on the basis of assessment, the four most frequently utilized information gathering techniques, and commonly used assessment instruments.

Pre: RPLS 274

Fall

#### **RPLS 447W (3) Therapeutic Recreation Process**

This course details the Therapeutic Recreation process: assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation in relation to individual treatment programs in Therapeutic Recreation Service. Emphasis is on interpreting assessment data, writing measurable goals and objectives, implementing an actual program and documenting program results in terms currently used in human service settings.

Pre: RPLS 274

WI

Fall

#### **RPLS 450 (3) Therapeutic Recreation Techniques**

This course is designed to teach a wide variety of interventions and facilitation techniques used in therapeutic recreation programs to give the student knowledge, practice and ability in the implementation of leisure and recreation programs for persons with special needs.

Pre: RPLS 274 and RPLS 447W

Spring

#### **RPLS 465 (3) Event Management**

This course introduces students to special event planning, development, budgeting, promotion and evaluation. The use, recruitment, evaluation and recognition of volunteers as well as fund raising strategies are discussed and employed.

Pre: RPLS 377

Spring

#### **RPLS 471W (3) Research Design in Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services**

This course guides the student through the survey process including the creation and implementation of a questionnaire. The data collected are then analyzed and a formal report is prepared. Computer skills are emphasized.

Fall, Spring

WI

#### **RPLS 473 (3) Administration of Leisure Time Programs**

Development of approaches in staffing, planning, organization, coordination, evaluation and directing programs and personnel.

Permission required from professor.

Fall, Spring

#### **RPLS 475 (3) Public Land Use Policies**

Traces the history of public lands in the United States, their acquisition and disposal. Congressional charges to executive agencies managing national lands and state and local government responsibilities for managing nonfederal public lands. Attention is given to international oceanic resources and how the international community will manage these resources.

Fall, Spring

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## RECREATION, PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES

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### **RPLS 478 (3) Review of Outdoor Recreation Research**

This course examines major topics of social science research aimed at learning the preferences, attitudes, behaviors, experiences and benefits of visitors to outdoor recreation areas.

Spring

### **RPLS 479 (3) Wildland Recreation Management**

This course introduces students to some basic natural resource and visitor management techniques in outdoor recreation settings. Topics such as interpretation and environmental education, visitor management and ecosystem management are among those discussed.

Spring

### **RPLS 481 (3) Park Planning**

Traces the history of the parks movement in the United States, selected legislation establishing parks and the enactment of funding legislation. The importance of public participation, planning and political strategies are stressed.

Fall

### **RPLS 482 (3) Leisure and Older Adults**

Leisure as an integral aspect of successful aging is the focus of this course which includes: leisure in relation to physical, intellectual, social and psychological aspects of aging and successful leisure programming in community based settings and in long term care.

Spring

### **RPLS 483 (3) Legal Processes in Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services**

This course investigates legislative and budgetary processes utilized in the public, non-profit, and private sectors of the leisure services profession.

Fall, Spring

### **RPLS 484 (1) Field Experience**

Students are required to complete the Field Experience in order to be eligible to enroll in RPLS 495 Practicum. Students will contract with the advisor to complete 100 hours of volunteer or paid experience in a leisure services organization.

Written permission required from the advisor.

Fall, Spring

### **RPLS 485 (1-3) Selected Topics**

Fall, Spring

### **RPLS 486 (1-4) Minor Practicum**

Course work set through student/advisor agreement.

Fall, Spring

### **RPLS 489 (3) Advancement of the Therapeutic Recreation Profession**

This course is designed to develop the student's ability to function as a member of the interdisciplinary treatment team and practice critical thinking, writing and oral skills related to treatment decisions, ethical issues, professional issues, and health care delivery systems.

Fall

### **RPLS 490 (2-4) Workshop**

Variable

### **RPLS 495 (9) Practicum**

The Practicum, which is one full semester of professional work experience, is completed at the end of the student's course work and requires 560 hours of service at a department approved agency where the student works full time for 14 consecutive weeks. Written permission is required from the student's advisor one semester in advance.

Pre: RPLS 484

### **RPLS 497 (1-8) Internship**

Course based on student/advisor agreement.

Fall, Spring

### **RPLS 498 (1-8) Internship**

Course based on student/advisor agreement.

Fall, Spring

### **RPLS 499 (1-4) Individual Study**

Course work set by student/advisor discussion.

Fall, Spring