RECREATION MANAGEMENT AND POLICY (RMP)

As the fabric of life in contemporary society grows in complexity, people are increasingly turning to leisure and recreation services to find meaning, renewal, and enrichment. Recreation services can improve public health and wellness, promote sustainable environments, develop a sense of community, and enhance the quality of life of all citizens. Recreation professionals work in diverse settings, including human services, health care, natural recreation resource areas such as parks, and commercial recreation businesses. Population and economic projections suggest that recreation service industries will continue to expand and thereby continue to provide numerous professional career opportunities.

The Department of Recreation Management and Policy maintains two national accreditations. Our core is nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism, and Related Professions (COAPRT). Further, our therapeutic recreation option is accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Recreational Therapy Education (CARTE). CARTE is an approved accreditation program under the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAHEP). The department's curriculum supports a broad-based education and an opportunity to acquire specialized professional knowledge and skills. Graduates are employed in a broad range of settings, such as community recreation agencies, resorts, conference centers, youth service agencies, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and long-term care facilities.

Curriculum Structure

Students entering the major may choose either an option in program and event management, which includes the professional core and required courses related to program and event management, or the therapeutic recreation option, which includes the professional core and required courses in therapeutic recreation. Candidates for a degree in recreation management and policy must satisfy all of the University Discovery Program requirements in addition to satisfying the requirements of each individual major option.

Study Abroad Opportunities

The University of New Hampshire approved study abroad program list is available on the Center for International Education website (https://www.unh.edu/global/education-abroad). This site includes a wide variety of destinations, coursework, and activities to meet the diverse needs of UNH students. Students who wish to attend a program not included in the approved list must complete a UNH One-time Study Abroad Approval Petition (https://www.unh.edu/global/sites/default/files/cie/media/individual_study_abroad_info_sheet_.pdf). Interested students in the major should consult with their recreation management and policy academic adviser about sites, timing, and coursework that may be most compatible with degree requirements.

Professional Internship

A supervised internship (RMP 764 Internship) is required of all majors and serves as their major capstone requirement. The internship is designed to create a bridge between theory and practical application. Students, working with their advisers and the internship coordinator, select an appropriate setting based on their professional and career interests. They must register for a 10-16 credit full-time internship that ranges from 10 to 16 weeks and is under the supervision of a qualified professional. Specific requirements are identified in the Internship Manual available from the Department of Recreation Management and Policy.

Criteria for Admission and Retention


Application Deadlines

Program and event management: This option prepares students for supervisory or middle management positions and emphasizes planning, leadership, and administrative concepts in settings such as youth sport organizations, recreation resource management, business and entrepreneurial recreation, municipal recreation, campus recreation, residential communities, festivals and events planning, employee services recreation, recreational sports agencies, youth service agencies, and resorts. Students must maintain a 2.50 semester GPA once admitted into the RMP-PEMP Option. Admission decisions are made after the student completes the online application process and has a meeting with the PEM option coordinator. If you have questions about the program and event management option, please contact S (neh34@unh.edu) Jean McLaughlin (sean.mclaughlin@unh.edu).

To apply, please complete the online transfer application form (https://unh.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3xwh78dQKcqddw).

PEM transfer applications are accepted throughout the year and decisions are made on a rolling admission basis.

Therapeutic recreation: Internal transfer applications are accepted online throughout the year and admissions decisions are made once each semester. Students must apply by December 1st for Fall admission or March 15th for Spring admission. Admission applications received beyond these deadlines will be considered for the following admission cycle.

The therapeutic recreation option prepares students for work primarily in clinical, allied health facilities such as hospitals, rehabilitation centers, mental health programs, and extended care facilities as well as inclusive community recreation programs. Admission decisions are based upon the content of the online application as well as a personal interview with the therapeutic recreation option coordinator. Students must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 to be considered for admission into the major and it is highly recommended that students have completed or are enrolled in BMS 507 Human Anatomy and Physiology I or BMS 508 Human Anatomy and Physiology II at the time of application. If you have questions about the therapeutic recreation option, please contact Dr. Allison Wilder (allison.wilder@unh.edu).

To apply, please complete the online transfer application form (https://unh.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3xwh78dQKcqddw).

We ask students to go through a short informational meeting with the therapeutic recreation option coordinator in order to better understand
the RMP curriculum and the profession prior to submitting an application for the major. We want students to be prepared to be active and satisfied participants in the RMP major. It is strongly recommended that you attend an informational session prior to submitting your application. These informational sessions take place throughout the academic year and may take the form of either group or individual meetings. To find out the schedule of meetings, please contact Dr. Allison Wilder. (allison.wilder@unh.edu)

Recreation Management and Policy Retention

Students within the major are required to maintain a minimum 2.5 grade-point average every semester. In addition, majors must obtain a grade of C (2.0) or better in RMP courses and a grade of C- (1.67) or better in all other courses specifically required by the department.

https://chhs.unh.edu/rmp

Courses

Recreation Management & Policy (RMP)

RMP 490 - Recreation and Leisure in Society
Credits: 4
Examines the historical and philosophical foundation of recreation and leisure. Emphasizes concepts, theories, and the interrelationships between factors (social, economic, political, and environmental), which influence people’s leisure attitudes and behavior. Explores implications of leisure for holistic and balanced living. Classes not allowed in section: Senior.
Attributes: Social Science (Discovery)

RMP 500 - Therapeutic Recreation Methods in Physical Rehabilitation Settings
Credits: 1
This course introduces students to a variety of assistive techniques, devices and equipment used in Therapeutic Recreation settings that allow individuals with illnesses and disabilities achieve maximum independence and functional capacity to maintain optimal health and leisure functioning. Students learn and apply skills in anatomical orientation and positioning, universal precautions, assistive technology and adapted equipment for recreation including manual, power, sports, and all-terrain wheelchairs, wheelchair mobility skills, proper body mechanics, transfer and lifting techniques, ambulation assists, and sighted guide techniques. Prereq: RMP 490, 501, 502, permission.
Co-requisite: RMP 503

RMP 501 - Recreation Services for Individuals with Disabilities
Credits: 4
Presents and discusses issues that concern the delivery of quality leisure services to individuals with disabilities in community settings. Classroom activities provide opportunities for practical experience.

RMP 502 - Foundations of Therapeutic Recreation
Credits: 4
History and professional concepts of therapeutic recreation and the roles and functions of the therapeutic recreation specialist.

RMP 503 - Therapeutic Recreation Rehabilitation Principles & Interventions
Credits: 4
Introduces the rehabilitation principles and recreational therapy interventions used by therapeutic recreation specialists to improve functioning for people with physical and cognitive impairments. Students learn and apply fundamental processes of clinical reasoning and treatment program planning to improve quality of life. A lab provides students with the opportunity to use a variety of assistive techniques, adaptive devices, and equipment to support individuals and achieve maximum independence and promote a healthy leisure lifestyle. Special fee. Prereq: RMP 490, RMP 501, RMP 502.
Co-requisite: RMP 500

RMP 504 - Therapeutic Recreation Mental Health Principles and Interventions
Credits: 4
Introduces mental health principles and recreational therapy interventions to improve functioning for people with emotional, social, and behavioral impairments. Students will learn and apply fundamental processes of clinical reasoning and treatment program planning to improve quality of life for persons with emotional, social, and behavioral impairments. Restricted to RMP majors.
RMP 511 - Issues of Wilderness and Nature in American Society
Credits: 4
Provides students with an overview of the evolving relationship between wilderness/nature and American society. Examines the philosophy, ethics, and societal values in American society and its relationship to our natural wilderness. Recent issues are used as case studies in order for students to articulate, defend, and critique the ethical issues presented. Students are responsible for understanding and applying philosophical approaches developed by philosophers, writers, and activists associated with the wilderness, sustainability, biodiversity, hunting, suburban sprawl, environmental activism, endangered species, organic foods, and genetic engineering.
Attributes: Humanities(Disc)

RMP 515 - History of Outdoor Pursuits in North America
Credits: 4
Voluntary pursuits in the outdoors have defined American culture since the early 17th century. Over the past 400 years, activities in outdoor recreation an education have reflected Americans' spiritual aspirations, imperial ambitions, social concerns, and demographic changes. This course will give students the opportunity to learn how Americans’ experiences in the outdoors have influenced and been influenced by major historical developments of the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th, and early 21st centuries. This course is cross-listed with KIN 515.
Attributes: Historical Perspectives(Disc)

RMP 557 - Program and Event Design
Credits: 4
This course introduces students to a range of approaches to recreation program and event design, and focuses on providing leisure experiences for all populations. Course topics include foundations of programming, program theories, needs assessment techniques, vision, mission, goals, and objectives, processes of group planning, public relations, program promotion, and program evaluation. Students will design and deliver a recreation program using a team approach. Prereq: RMP 490. Permission required.

RMP 559 - Program and Event Marketing
Credits: 4
This course prepares students to apply marketing principles and strategies to recreation programs and events, including procedures for developing marketing plans for recreation and event organizations. Course content includes planning the marketing mix, with a focus on the recreation or event product, price, place, and promotion. The course covers the application of marketing and communication strategies delivered through social and audio-visual media. The culminating project consists of a marketing and communication plan for a recreation/leisure service agency. Prereq: RMP 490. Permission required. RMP Majors Only.

RMP 560 - Recreational Sport Management
Credits: 4
Explores and examines the theoretical foundations and basic skill methods, and techniques necessary for the effective and efficient delivery of recreational sport programs within a variety of collegiate, public, quasi-public, and private settings, agencies and/or organizations.

RMP 563 - Recreation Management and Policy Practicum
Credits: 2
Designed to provide first and second year RMP majors the opportunity to observe and practice leadership skills in clinical and community-based settings. Students complete a 40-45 hour practicum at an approved site. Successful completion of a practicum is prerequisite to the professional internship, RMP 664. Students are responsible for transportation and housing. Prereq: RMP 490. Permission required. May be repeated for a total of 4 credits. Cr/F.

RMP 565 - Introduction to Child Life
Credits: 4
When facing acute, chronic or life-threatening illness and traumatic injuries, children and families have unique needs within the medical system. The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the theory and practice of the child life profession and family centered care. Topics include children's emotional reactions to hospitalization, use of play, preparation, and family support, designing healing environments, and specializations within the field. Permission required. (Also listed as HDFS 565).

RMP 593 - Special Topics
Credits: 2-4

RMP 593W - Special Topics
Credits: 2-4
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course

RMP 603 - New Hampshire Ski Industry Management
Credits: 4
This course examines the New Hampshire ski and snowboard industry from several distinct but interrelated perspectives: social, technological, environmental, historical, economic, and operational. Students will explore skiing as a holistic and fulfilling segment of the outdoor recreation field, while gaining an understanding of its interdependence with the state’s economy, the natural environment, and New Hampshire’s unique cultural history. The influence of New Hampshire’s ski industry on the history and growth of the American ski industry will be examined, and the impacts of climate change and other environmental issues will be investigated in light on ongoing societal shifts and relevant technological advancements.
RMP 612 - Therapeutic Communication and Facilitation Techniques in Therapeutic Recreation
Credits: 4
Addresses specific clinical knowledge and skills essential to therapeutic recreation service delivery including clinical interviewing, group process, leisure education, treatment approaches, and intervention techniques. Prereq: RMP 490. Permission required.

RMP 613 - Interventions and Documentation in Therapeutic Recreation
Credits: 3
This course emphasizes theory and concepts in clinical intervention within therapeutic recreation settings. Students learn to identify and select appropriate facilitation techniques for a variety of client needs. Students also learn to write and interpret practice-based documentation. Students are afforded the opportunity to practice and apply concepts learned. Prereq: RMP 490. Permission required. Only open to RMP Therapeutic Recreation majors.

RMP 614 - Assessment and Treatment Planning in Therapeutic Recreation
Credits: 4
Addresses the principles of activity analysis, client assessment, documentation, individualized program planning, selection of interventions, and collaboration with a treatment team. Prereq: RMP 612/ RMP 613. Permission required. Writing intensive.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course

RMP 615 - Clinical Lab in Therapeutic Recreation
Credits: 2
A clinical lab that provides students with the opportunity to apply principles central to the effective delivery of therapeutic recreation individualized treatment planning, client assessment, documentation, and activity analysis with members of one of two community sites located in the Seacoast region. Students are required to participate in weekly sessions (five to six hours per week) for a total of 15 weeks. Prereq: RMP 612/RMP 613. Permission required. Ct/F.

RMP 654 - Professional Development and Ethics
Credits: 2
Focuses on preparing students for the internship experience through the identification of career goals and the selection of an approved internship site. A portfolio emphasizing process skills in resume construction, interviewing techniques, establishing internship goals and objectives, and self-assessment is developed. Securing Certification in Basic First Aid and CPR (infant, child, adult) is a component of this course. Majors only. Prereq: permission. Letter Grade/IA (continuous grading).

RMP 661 - Recreation and Event Leadership
Credits: 4
This course is designed to expose students to fundamental principles of leadership, communication, group facilitation, motivation, employee management, conflict resolution, and development of professional ethics. Students will develop techniques for the exercise of leadership in group and organizational settings associated with recreational programs and events. Students are expected to apply the leadership principles, theories, and techniques to small group exercises and activity leadership requirements. Prereq: RMP 490, RMP Majors only; permission required.

RMP 663 - Recreation and Event Management
Credits: 4
This course introduces students to various management processes. These processes include fiscal and budget development and management; policy development and implementation; recreational facility design, operation, and functions. Students gain insight into key areas of management through visitation to recreation and event venues and facilities. RMP Majors Only. Prereq: RMP 490 permission required.

RMP 668 - Youth Culture and Programs
Credits: 4
Emphasizes the identification of community and personal issues youth face in growing up as well as institutional and programmatic support available to assist youth. The course also examines the leadership, administrative, financial, and marketing tools necessary to develop successful youth programs and services. Service learning fieldwork and the completion of a background check are required. Prereq: RMP, RMPA or RMP:TR Majors Only or by permission of the instructor. Writing intensive.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course

RMP 680 - Festival and Event Planning
Credits: 4
Introduces the planning, marketing, management, and evaluation of festivals and special events. Explores the theories and practices relevant to successful event planning for host community residents and visitors. Prereq: RMP 557 (majors); or by instructor permission (non-majors). Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors only.

RMP 700H - Senior Honors Project
Credits: 4-6
Under the direction of an RMP faculty member, students complete either a supervised research or applied field study project that builds on their honors coursework. Students submit a written proposal for approval and present the results at the completion of their project. Applied studies address a specific need or problem of a local agency or organization. Prereq: permission required.

RMP 705 - Management and Policy in Therapeutic Recreation
Credits: 4
Addresses National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification knowledge areas concerning management competency. Students acquire knowledge of current principles and procedures for assuming an administrative role in the therapeutic recreation profession. Issues and practices related to budgeting, reimbursement, quality improvement programs, and comprehensive program planning. Prereq: RMP 612, RMP 613.RMP:TR majors only.

RMP 711 - Recreation Resource Management
Credits: 4
Examines the supply and demand of natural resources for outdoor recreation uses, with emphasis on relationships between public and private roles and responsibilities. Social, environmental, and economic impacts of outdoor recreation use are discussed. Current principles and techniques of recreation resource planning and management are outlined. Prereq: seniors or permission.
RMP 720 - Adaptive Sports and Recreation Facilitation
Credits: 4
This course takes a strengths-based approach to examining adaptive sports and recreation, with a focus on best practices and risk management in community-based settings. This is an experiential learning course, whereby students will learn how to design, plan, and facilitate a variety of adaptive sports for people with disabilities. Students will learn and apply processes for selecting, fitting, and adjusting adaptive sports and recreation equipment for individuals with disabilities. A special course fee will apply.

RMP 724 - Grantsmanship, Evaluation, and Research
Credits: 4
Emphasizes understanding and application of grantsmanship, research techniques, and research writing. Addresses the process of program planning and grant proposal development. Examines research methodologies and the evaluation processes as applied to recreation and allied health settings. Critical assessment of uses and limitations of research for recreation. Prereq: RMP 557, and junior or senior RMP major or permission. Writing intensive.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course

RMP #730 - Camp Administration and Leadership
Credits: 4
Provides students with an understanding of administrative and organizational practices in structured camp settings. Students are exposed to the theory, practice, and challenges of program planning for youth and adult development within the recreation context of camping. Explores current sociological, environmental, economical, and legislative trends influencing contemporary camp management. Permission required.

RMP 750 - Aging, Advocacy, and Active Learning
Credits: 4
This course explores the impact of advocacy and social action programs for the aging adult. Course content is explored through the lens of active living emphasizing how leisure and recreation contribute to optimal experiences in later adulthood. Course content includes facilitating the learners' understanding of longer life issues within the broader context of health and well-being at the local, state, and national levels. There is an applied action component to this course using a service learning framework.

RMP 760 - Program Administration in Recreational Sport
Credits: 4
This course focuses on the administration and development of participant-based community sport and recreation programs. The course emphasizes the organizational, administrative, and planning competencies to effectively manage these programs. A focus on problems, and the development of research-oriented solutions related to the administration of community sport and recreation programs will also be emphasized.

RMP 764 - Internship
Credits: 10-16
Supervised professional work experience in an approved recreation, park, tourism or health care agency. Students participate in a 10-16-week, 400-640 hour internship experience after receiving approval from their Professional Mentor and the Internship Coordinator. Prereq: majors only; permission. Cr/F.

RMP #768 - Theories and Philosophies of Youth Development
Credits: 4
This course provides students with a foundation in the theories and philosophies associated with the field of youth development. In this course, students critically analyze the strengths, limitations, and potential applications of various theories, philosophies, and ideas. Examples include: Developmental Systems Theory, Ecological Systems Theory, protective factors, and developmental assets. Students work or volunteer with a youth program for the duration of the semester in order to facilitate application of course concepts.

RMP 770 - Management and Design of Recreation and Park Facilities
Credits: 4
Provides students with an orientation to the theories, design, operation, and functions of recreational facilities. Topics include facility development, operational considerations, and auxiliary functions that impact the manager’s role. Students gain insight into key areas of facility management through visitations to actual facilities. Special fee.

RMP 772 - Law and Public Policy in Leisure Services
Credits: 4
Topics including the law of torts, contracts, property, civil rights, risk management, and legal research are addressed in the context of leisure services and recreation resources. Public policy and professional advocacy implications are examined in relation to legislative and judicial systems. Prereq: RMP 557, RMP 663, and senior RMP major or permission. Writing intensive.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course

RMP 775 - Entrepreneurial and Commercial Recreation
Credits: 4
Principles of business planning and development as applied to the private sector leisure services industry. Emphasizes knowledge of key commercial leisure services profiles and their intersection with allied professions such as hospitality and tourism. Course topics include entrepreneurship, business planning, needs assessment, product development, selling, financing, legal designations, and business operations leading to the development of a business plan for a new entrepreneurial recreation enterprise.

RMP 793 - Advanced Topics
Credits: 2-4
A) Area and Site Planning, B) Concepts and Trends in Therapeutic Recreation, and C) Conference Planning. Topics presented by instructors with specialized knowledge gained through professional practice, research, and study. Descriptions of topics available in department office during preregistration. May be repeated but not in duplicate areas. 2 to.

RMP 796 - Independent Study
Credits: 1-4
Individual study and/or research relating to leisure-oriented topics. Prereq: permission.

RMP 796W - Independent Study
Credits: 1-4
Individual study and/or research relating to leisure-oriented topics. Prereq: permission. Writing intensive.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course

Faculty

https://chhs.unh.edu/directory/all