

# RECREATION, PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES BS AND MINOR

## Recreation, Parks & Leisure Services

College of Allied Health & Nursing  
Department of Recreation, Parks And Leisure Services  
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Chair: Rachelle H. Fuller

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**Accreditations.** Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions. (COAPRT).

This program prepares a graduate to become a professional leader, supervisor and/or administrator within the private for profit, private nonprofit, 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.

### Academic Map/Degree Plan at [www.mnsu.edu/programs/#All](http://www.mnsu.edu/programs/#All)

#### POLICIES/INFORMATION

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
- Completion of IT 100 (Introduction to Computing and Applications)
- Completion of RPLS 272 (Introduction to Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services) with a "C" or better or departmental permission
- An advisor in the department
- Completion of an application for admission that includes an essay and an evaluation from the student's RPLS 272 (Introduction to Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services) instructor.

Students who have earned fewer than 32 semester credits and/or have a minimum cumulative GPA less than 2.5 can declare as Pre-RPLS. This enables them to select an advisor. Once students meet the entrance requirements, as listed above, they must then apply for formal admittance to the major.

Majors and Pre-RPLS 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

To declare an RPLS minor students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better. RPLS minors must receive a "C" or better in RPLS courses applied to the minor in order to fulfill minor requirements.

**Practicum Policy.** Each student must complete the practicum requirement. Students are required to enroll in RPLS 495 (9 credits) after completing all RPLS course work. Students must also 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 RPLS 302 (Pre-Practicum Seminar)
- Completion of RPLS 384 (Field Experience),
- Completion of an Application for Practicum one semester before the Practicum begins. The application must be approved by the student's faculty advisor; and
- Permission to register from the student's faculty advisor.

**P/N Grading Policy.** Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services majors and minors must take required courses for a letter grade with the exception that the field experience, pre-practicum seminar and 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.

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

### RECREATION, PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES BS

Degree completion = 120 credits

#### Prerequisites to the Major

Students must earn a "C" or better in RPLS 272 prior to admission to the major. In special circumstances, the department may grant admission to students who have not first completed RPLS 272. However, all RPLS majors must complete RPLS 272 as a requirement for graduation.

IT	100	Introduction to Computing and Applications (4)
RPLS	272	Introduction To Recreation, Parks & Leisure Services (3)

#### Major Common Core

RPLS	277	Recreation Leadership (3)
RPLS	278	Leisure and Lifestyle (3)
RPLS	302	Pre-Practicum Seminar (2)
RPLS	376	Program Planning in Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services (3)
RPLS	377	Public Relations (3)
RPLS	379	Management of Parks and Recreation Facilities (3)
RPLS	384	Field Experience (1)
RPLS	471	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	495	Practicum (9)

#### Major Emphasis: Resource Management

Emphasis Core Choose 22 Credits

GEOG	373	Introduction to Geography Information Systems (4)
RPLS	282	Wildlife as a Recreational Resource (3)
RPLS	350	Methods of Interpretation in RPLS (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)

Research Option Choose 0 - 3 Credits

RPLS	457W	Transdisciplinary Research In Health Related Fields (3)
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#### Major Emphasis: Leisure Planning and Management

Emphasis Core Choose 15 Credits

RPLS	274	Therapeutic Recreation Services (3)
RPLS	325	Programming for Outdoor Settings (3)
RPLS	378	Commercial Recreation and Tourism (3)
RPLS	451	Advanced Program Delivery Methods (3)
RPLS	465	Event Management (3)

Research Option Choose 0 - 3 Credits

RPLS	457W	Transdisciplinary Research in Health-Related Fields (3)
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#### Major Emphasis: Therapeutic Recreation

Major Emphasis Choose 15 Credits

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	489	Advancement of the Therapeutic Recreation Profession (3)

Research Option Choose 0 - 3 Credits

RPLS	457W	Transdisciplinary Research in Health-Related Fields (3)
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#### 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)

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## RECREATION, PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES CONTINUED

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### RECREATION, PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES MINOR

#### Required for Minor

RPLS	272	Introduction to Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services (3)
RPLS	277	Recreation Leadership (3)
RPLS	376	Program Planning in Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services (3)
RPLS	473	Administration of Leisure Time Programs (3)

#### Required for Minor

**Elective:** Select 9 additional credits from RPLS upper division courses in consultation with an advisor.

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 302 (2) Pre-Practicum Seminar

This course is designed to be taken two semesters before students completes their practicums. It will help students identify and secure a practicum. It will also help students establish reasonable expectations for a quality practicum experience.

Fall, Spring

#### 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 350 (3) Methods of Interpretation in RPLS

Students will be introduced to various methods and skills used to design and deliver interpretive programs and materials to various audiences. Students will also apply the philosophies, concepts, theories and practical skills necessary for implementing effective interpretive programs.

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 indoor and outdoor recreation facilities.

Fall, Spring

#### RPLS 384 (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 398 (0) CPT: Co-Operative Experience

Curricular Practical Training: Co-Operative Experience is a zero-credit full-time practical training experience for one summer and one adjacent fall or spring term. Special rules apply to preserve full-time student status. Please contact an advisor in your program for complete information.

Prerequisite: At least 60 credits earned; in good standing; instructor permission; co-op contract; other prerequisites may also apply.

Fall, Spring, Summer

#### 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.

Prerequisite: 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.

Prerequisite: RPLS 274

Fall

VI

#### 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.

Prerequisite: RPLS 274 and RPLS 447W

Spring

#### RPLS 451 (3) Advanced Program Delivery Methods

Students will study the recreation needs of various groups of people and learn the best practices for serving those needs. The emphasis will be on program planning guidelines appropriate for each group across the lifespan and for diverse groups.

Spring

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## RECREATION, PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES CONTINUED

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### 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 fundraising strategies are discussed and employed.

Prerequisite: 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

VI

### 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

### 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.

Variable

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

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

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.

Prerequisite: RPLS 302, RPLS 384. Completion of major coursework with a 2.5 GPA in the major courses.

### 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