Graduate course offerings in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences are designed to generate and disseminate knowledge concerning the development, management and sustainable use of recreation, park, community, and tourism resources and opportunities. The focus of the program is on the relationships between people, recreational, community and tourism developments, and the natural resource base. The curriculum has five main areas of emphasis: recreation and park administration; recreation and natural resources management; tourism; community development; and youth development. The first emphasis deals primarily with the public sector, while the third deals primarily with the private sector. Recreation and natural resource management, community development, and youth development involves both sectors.

Graduate study in these areas is interdisciplinary. Cooperative relationships exist with a wide range of outstanding graduate-level programs in the University. This provides students with an opportunity to structure an individualized program of study in the field of their choice. Courses selected within the department and in supporting fields are designed to serve the individual needs of students interested in teaching, public service, research, and administration of recreation, park, community and tourism developments.

The Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences offers courses of study leading to the Master of Recreation and Resources Development; Master of Natural Resources Development; Master of Science (thesis and non-thesis) and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in recreation, park and tourism sciences. The MRRD is a professional degree with a major in Recreation and Resources Development for those who are already working in or anticipate a career in professional service. The MNRD with a major in Natural Resources Development is identical in intent and general requirements to those for the MRRD; however, more emphasis is placed on undertaking an interdisciplinary mix of coursework from other natural resources programs at Texas A&M University. The MS thesis degree prepares students for advanced graduate study at the PhD level, which often leads to a career in university research and teaching. The MS non-thesis degree emphasizes professional development. It includes additional courses in the student’s selected field instead of a thesis. Non-thesis MRRD, MNRD and MS students may elect a professional internship.

Faculty

Crompton, John L, Distinguished Professor
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, Texas A&M University, 1977
MBA, Loughborough University, England, 1970

Durko, Angela M, Lecturer
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2014

Ellis, Gary D, Professor
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, North Texas State University, 1983

Gramann, James H, Professor
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1980

Heo, Jin Moo, Associate Professor
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, Indiana University, 2007

Hodges, Louis, Associate Professor
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, Texas A&M University, 1971

Jacob, John, Professor & Extension Specialist
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, Texas A&M University, 1992

Jamal, Tazim B, Associate Professor
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, University of Calgary, 1997

Kaiser, Ronald A, Professor
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
LLM, University of California, Berkeley, 1989
JD, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, 1977

Kyle, Gerard T, Professor
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, The Pennsylvania State University, 2001

Martz, Jill T, Executive Professor
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, University of Tennessee, 2004

Matarrita Cascante, David, Associate Professor
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, The Pennsylvania State University, 2008

Outley, Corliss D, Associate Professor
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2000

Petrick, James F, Professor
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, Clemson University, 1999

Ramer, Svitlana I, Lecturer
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, The Pennsylvania State University, 2008

Richmond, Daniel J, Lecturer
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, The Pennsylvania State University, 2014

Richmond, Daniel J, Lecturer
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, University of Utah, 2016
MBA, University of Oregon, 2012
Schuett, Michael, Associate Professor
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1991

Scott, David, Professor
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, The Pennsylvania State University, 1990

Shafer, C S, Professor
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, Clemson University, 1993

Stronza, Amanda L, Associate Professor
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, University of Florida, 2000

Thomas, John, Professor Emeritus
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, Texas A&M University, 1979

Walker, Jamie Rae, Associate Professor & Extension Specialist
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2008

Masters

- Master of Natural Resources Development (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/recreation-park-tourism-sciences/mnrd)
- Master of Recreation and Resources Development (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/recreation-park-tourism-sciences/mrrd)
- Master of Science in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/recreation-park-tourism-sciences/ms)

Doctoral

- Doctor of Philosophy in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/recreation-park-tourism-sciences/phd)

Certificates

- Certificate in Community Development (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/recreation-park-tourism-sciences/community-development-certificate)

Courses

RPTS 601 Interrelationships of Recreation and Leisure Concepts
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
History and philosophy of the field of recreation and parks; fundamentals of planning, development and management of resources allocated for recreation, parks and tourism purposes; development of the recreation movement with broad treatment of the role of recreation and parks in contemporary society.

RPTS 602 Social Science Foundations of Recreation, Parks and Tourism
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Sociological and social psychological dimensions of leisure, recreation and related behavior; nature and function of leisure for individuals and for society; implications for development and management of recreation resources.
Prerequisite: RPTS 601 or previous academic background in recreation and parks.

RPTS 603 Financing and Marketing Park and Recreation Resources
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Positioning park and recreation services; traditional and non-traditional sources of financing for developing services and facilities; philosophy and techniques of marketing services and facilities.

RPTS 604 Principles of Community and Community Development
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examines different theories about community development as well as the concept of community; explores measurement and other methodological issues in the conduct of basic and applied community research.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

RPTS 605 Community Organization
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examines how community organization and institutions differ and result from diverse social, cultural and demographic factors; explores how these factors restructure communities over time and community responses to restructuring.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

RPTS 606 Overview of Tourism
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Theoretical introduction to the field of tourism sciences; the cooperative and dynamic nature of decision-making in tourism; the contributions made by various disciplines towards understanding the consequences of tourism trade and activity; and identification of critical issues in the study of travel and tourism.

RPTS 609 Social, Economic and Cultural Issues in Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Survey of socio-economic and cultural characteristics impinging on provision of outdoor recreation opportunities in urban and non-urban settings; implications of social and cultural factors on recreation resource use patterns, resource development and policy issues.

RPTS 615 Analytic Techniques in Recreation, Parks and Tourism
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Analysis of current research; instruments and analytic techniques used in the selection and formulation of research problems.

RPTS 616 Tourism Economics
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Introduction to tourism economics including: tourism consumption and demand analysis; operating and capital budgeting; measurement of economic impacts through input/output analysis; forecasting; project management through PERT/CPM; decision making under uncertainty; benefit/cost analysis.
Prerequisites: RPTS 606 and STAT 651 or approval of instructor.
RPTS 620 Interdisciplinary Seminar in Prevention Science  
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.  
Contemporary research programs that represent the interdisciplinary field of prevention science; strengths and limitations of diverse theoretical and conceptual bases of research in prevention science; application of research findings to issues related to the prevention of mental, emotional, and physical health problems and the promotion of well-being. May be taken 3 times for credit.  
Prerequisite: Graduate standing and either admission to the interdisciplinary graduate certificate in prevention science program or approval of instructor.  
Cross Listing: COMM 671, HLTH 671 and SPSY 620.

RPTS 626 Social Impacts of Tourism  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Analysis of social, cultural and political impacts associated with travel behavior and tourism development, emphasizing a case study approach; theories and methods for assessing individual, community and organization impacts at local and regional levels; host/guest interactions; evaluation of processes of tourism planning and decision-making; and qualitative and quantitative measures for assessing social impacts.  
Prerequisite: RPTS 606 or approval of instructor.

RPTS 636 Philosophy of Social Research  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Overview of the history and development of the philosophy of social science; Relationships science; issues in social research; Sociology of Knowledge; related debates in various disciplines and fields of study. May be taken 3 times for credit.  
Prerequisite: Doctoral classification.

RPTS 641 Tourism Experience  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Discusses the theoretical foundations of tourism experiences from an interdisciplinary perspective, including the role of humans, nature/ landscapes, built environments and technologies in staging tourism-experiences; draws implications for the design/planning, management and marketing of tourism venues such as events, festivals, museums, hotels/resorts, cruise ships, cities, theme parks as well as websites.

RPTS 646 Heritage Tourism  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Comprises a transdisciplinary examination of contemporary research and practice in heritage tourism and public culture; encourages to deploy a variety of disciplinary outlooks to explore the representation of peoples, places and pasts in a range of settings from the indigenous/sacred to the post-industrial/post colonial.

RPTS 654  
Credits 4. 4 Lecture Hours.  
Amazon Field School. Investigation of social and ecological complexities of biodiversity conservation in tropical ecosystems; biological and social science approaches to evaluate causes, consequences and solutions to biodiversity loss through ecology, culture and governance.  
Cross Listing: VTMI 604 and WFSC 654.

RPTS 655/WFSC 655 Applied Biodiversity Science I  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Students will study in the areas of Conservation genetics, metapopulations, landscape ecology, and ecosystem management.  
Prerequisite(s): Graduate classification.  
Cross Listing: WFSC 655/RPTS 655.

RPTS 666 Parks, Tourism and the Natural Environment  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Parks, Tourism and the Natural and Cultural Environment. # Analysis of natural and cultural resource management in the United States; emphasis on federal policy and the influence by political processes at the national, regional, and local levels; case studies to illustrate conceptual and legal frameworks in real world contexts, including the policy and politics of tourism and recreation, endangered species, contested history, and Native American traditions and sovereignty.  
Prerequisite: RPTS 602 or approval of instructor.

RPTS 670 Youth Development Programs and Services  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Principles and practices of youth development supports, opportunities, programs and services; emphasis on the role of out-of-school time settings in youth development; programming considerations related to gender, disability and culture; introduction to evaluation and financing of youth development programs.

RPTS 678/RENR 678 Latent Variable Model Applications in the Leisure Sciences  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Introduction to structural equation modeling (SEM); background on conceptual issues, application of the method, and insight on SEM software; measurement theory, missing data analysis, non-normal data, confirmatory factor analysis, path analysis, multi-group models.  
Prerequisites: STAT 636 or approval of instructor.  
Cross Listing: RENR 678/RPTS 678.

RPTS 684 Professional Internship  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.  
Survey and application of principles of recreation and resources development; selected aspects of park and recreation management in professional setting within an approved recreation/park agency under the supervision of a member of the graduate faculty.

RPTS 685 Directed Studies  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.  
Investigations not included in student's research for thesis or dissertation; problems selected in administration or management, recreation or planning.

RPTS 689 Special Topics in...  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours. 0 to 9 Lab Hours.  
Selected topics in an identified area of recreation and resources development. May be repeated for credit.  
Prerequisite: Approval of department head.

RPTS 691 Research  
Credits 1 to 23. 1 to 23 Other Hours.  
Research in recreation and resources development for thesis or dissertation.

RPTS 693 Professional Study  
Credits 1 to 9. 1 to 9 Other Hours.  
Approved research or professional paper undertaken as the terminal requirement for the Master of Science Non-Thesis or Natural Resources Development. May be taken more than once, but not to exceed 3 hours credit towards a degree.  
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.