DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARK AND TOURISM SCIENCES

The undergraduate curriculum leading to a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences emphasizes problem-solving skills, development of an international perspective and the application of scientific principles to managerial problems. Students study both the social and life sciences to gain an understanding of how to manage and market organizations in the vast park, recreation and tourism industry. The curriculum provides the student with an introduction to the history and concepts of recreation, park and tourism sciences, followed by the knowledge and skills for both entry-level positions and for future professional growth in the field. In addition to core courses, students must fulfill requirements for at least one certificate, and may earn additional certificates. An education in recreation, park and tourism sciences prepares students to become leaders for the 21st century with the capacity to learn from life and throughout life.

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

Harwell, William R, Assistant Professor of the Practice
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
MS, Memphis State University, 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
MBA, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, 1991

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

Kyle, Kelly T, Lecturer
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
MS, The Pennsylvania State University, 2000

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

Migacz, Steven, Assistant Lecturer
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
MS, Texas State University, 2012

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, 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

Scott, Susan G, Lecturer
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
MS, The Pennsylvania State University, 1987

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

Shafer, Debra M, Lecturer
Recreation, Parks, And Tourism Sc
MS, University of Utah, 1985

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

Majors

- Bachelor of Science in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences with Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/recreation-park-tourism-sciences/bs-community-recreation-park-administration-certificate)
- Bachelor of Science in Renewable Natural Resources (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/interdepartmental-degree-programs/renewable-natural-resources-bs)

Minors


Certificates

- Community Recreation and Park Administration Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/recreation-park-tourism-sciences/community-recreation-park-administration-certificate)
- Professional Event Manager Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/recreation-park-tourism-sciences/professional-event-manager-certificate)

Courses

RPTS 201 Foundations of Recreation, Parks and Tourism
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
(PHED 1336) Foundations of Recreation, Parks and Tourism. Analysis of the elements comprising a community, community assessment techniques and community development processes engaged by stakeholders and residents to improve living conditions; definitions and principles associated with community development.

RPTS 209 Park and Tourism Operations
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Planning, execution and supervision of field maintenance and operations.

RPTS 230 Computer Applications in Recreation, Parks and Tourism
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Fundamentals of computer use and the application of software used in careers related to park and tourism enterprises; computer use in decision making and problem solving.
Prerequisite: MATH 102.

RPTS 291 Research
Credits 1 to 3. 1 to 3 Other Hours.
Research conducted under the direction of faculty member in recreation and park and tourism sciences.
Prerequisites: Freshman or sophomore classification and approval of instructor.

RPTS 300 Supervised Field Studies
Credits 3. 3 Other Hours.
Survey and application of principles of recreation and parks; selected aspects of park and recreation management in an operational setting under the supervision of an approved agency; preparation and presentation of a comprehensive analysis of a specific problem; offered on an individual basis. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisites: RPTS 307; 12 hours of credit in recreation and parks.

RPTS 301 Leisure and Outdoor Recreation in American Culture
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Introduction to the fundamental concepts of leisure and outdoor recreation and how they influence us as individuals, groups and society; critical factors such as self, family, lifespan, ecology, health, work patterns, communications, diversity, popular culture, and consumption are studied in relationship to past, present and future leisure patterns.

RPTS 302 Application of Tourism Principles
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Tourism principles applied at local, regional and international levels; examination of the scale, scope and organization of the industry including marketing destinations and experiences; issues related to the economic, technological and political aspects of tourism.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.

RPTS 304 Administration of Recreation Resource Agencies
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Contemporary issues and related administrative practices associated with the provision of recreation services and settings; addresses principles associated with recreation resource agency administration; personnel and customer-related administrative issues in recreation resource agencies; concepts and principles relevant to commercial and non-profit recreation resource agencies.
Prerequisites: RPTS 201.
RPTS 307 Methods of Environmental Interpretation
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Communication processes and practices between resource managers and publics using or affected by natural, cultural and tourism resource places; principles and techniques of gathering, analyzing and disseminating information through various media, such as exhibits, presentations, publications and programs.

RPTS 308 Foundations of Community and Community Development
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Analysis of the elements comprising a community, community assessment techniques and community development processes engaged by stakeholders and residents to improve living conditions; definitions and principles associated with community development.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.

RPTS 311 Planning and Implementation of Events and Programs
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Planning, operations, administration and evaluation; includes creation and implementation of programs and special events with budgeting, operational and venue logistics, marketing, fund raising, hospitality training and participant satisfaction.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.

RPTS 316 Recreational Management of Wildlands
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Management and recreational use of wild and wilderness areas and multiple use management areas; systems and techniques for dealing with management problems in outdoor recreation.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.

RPTS 320 Event Management and Operations I
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Principles and applications for effective planning and management of events; planning, promotion, operational logistics, sponsorship and evaluation.
Prerequisite: RPTS 311.

RPTS 321 Event Management and Operations II
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Advanced principles and applications of event management, including practical knowledge relating to contracting, media, fund raising, compliance and oversight, risk management, site logistics, sponsorships and vendor management.
Prerequisites: RPTS 311 and RPTS 320.

RPTS 331 Tourism Marketing
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Application of basic tourism marketing principles and concepts in government, business, and social-cause contexts; situation analysis and operational evaluation; decision making in terms of product, place, price, and channel of distribution mixes for tourism attractions and services.
Prerequisite: RPTS 302 and junior or senior classification.

RPTS 336 Research and Analysis in Recreation and Tourism
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examination of current tourism and recreation research emphasizing specialized research methodology, adaptive techniques and methods of research useful to the recreation and tourism professional; analysis of the methods of problems identification, formulation and solution.
Prerequisites: RENR 201 or RPTS 230 or equivalent; STAT 201 or equivalent; all mathematics requirements satisfied.

RPTS 340 Recreation, Parks, Tourism and Diverse Populations
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Review of major judicial decisions and civil rights laws on provision and distribution of leisure services in society; influence of age, disability, ethnicity, national origin, race, religion and gender on individual's preferences for particular experiences; implications of individual differences for the provision of services.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.

RPTS 360 Ecotourism: Principles and Practices
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Principles and practices related to ecotourism; analyzes outcomes of ecotourism for conservation and development; ecotourism as a strategy to protect culture and the physical environment.
Prerequisite: RPTS 302.

RPTS 370 Youth Development Organizations and Services
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Changing views of adolescence and youth culture in the United States; developmental assets and principles of developing positive youth development supports, opportunities and services; mentoring and staff development for youth serving agencies; goals, program emphases, administrative methods and membership of major youth serving organizations.

RPTS 371 Understanding and Developing Effective Skills for Youth Development
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Development of skills needed to effectively work with youth; issues such as youth participation, conflict resolution, youth-adult collaboration, leadership development, youth empowerment and youth voice; connection of theoretical concepts to practice.
Prerequisites: RPTS 370 and junior or senior classification.

RPTS 380 Visitor and Resource Protection I
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Fundamental values and operations of the National Park Service; communication, leadership and conservation skills and practice needed for employment with federal park agencies; physical fitness training.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

RPTS 381 Visitor and Resource Protection II
Credits 2. 2 Lecture Hours.
Fundamental values and operations of the visitor and resource protection branch of the National Park Service; law enforcement, customer service, ethics and team cohesion.
Prerequisites: RPTS 380; junior or senior classification; approval of instructor.

RPTS 382 Visitor and Resource Protection III
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Advanced certifications for visitor and resource protection within the National Park Service; Wildland Fire Fighting; Basic Emergency Medical Technician. Must be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis only.
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification; approval of instructor.

RPTS 401 Tourism and Recreation Enterprises
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Market and financial feasibility analysis; resource characteristics, location and market aspects of tourism and recreation enterprises; sources of funding for facility development; approaches to marketing recreation, park and tourism services; applying knowledge to case study situations.
Prerequisites: RPTS 304 or RPTS 423 and senior classification.
RPTS 402 Park Planning and Design  
**Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.**
Classification of areas according to primary function, location and clientele served; basic park planning principles involving scale, circulation, function and spatial relationships; methodology for establishing planning goals, objectives and planning strategies.  
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior classification.

RPTS 403 Financing and Marketing Recreation, Park and Tourism Resources  
**Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.**
Public sources of funding for facility development and of approaches to marketing recreation, park, and tourism services; applying knowledge to case study situations.  
**Prerequisites:** RPTS 304 or RPTS 423; senior classification.

RPTS 404/SOCI 404 Sociology of the Community  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**
Organization of American communities examining the bases of community, types of communities and the changes faced by communities.  
**Prerequisite:** SOCI 205; Junior or senior classification.  
**Cross Listing:** SOCI 404/RPTS 404.

RPTS 408 Community Development and Supporting Institutions  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**
Scope, function and mission of domestic and international organizations that support community development efforts.  
**Prerequisites:** RPTS 308 or approval of instructor; junior or senior classification.

RPTS 411 Cruise Tourism  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**
Overview of cruise tourism; management of service sectors; understanding of cultural aspects of places traveled; cruise marketing/decision making; geography of cruising; youth programming; agri-tourism; identification of issues related to the economic, technological and political aspects of cruise tourism.  
**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification.

RPTS 421 Hotel and Resort Operations  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**
Examination of the crucial elements involved in the successful operation of a hotel or resort and how they interrelate; analysis and application of management principles in the major departments of hotels and resorts to include rooms division, food and beverage, recreation, sales and marketing.  
**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification.

RPTS 423 Tourism Management  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**
Management issues and tools related to the travel and tourism industry; history, planning, operations, leading, directing and controlling tourism businesses; complexity and scope of tourism systems; issues related to ethics and sustainability; managing tourism in different environments; roles of technology and information technology; future of tourism.  
**Prerequisite:** RPTS 302.

RPTS 426 Tourism Impacts  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**
Consequences and impacts of various kinds of tourism development for host communities and regions; read and evaluate case studies from Texas, other areas in the United States and internationally; economic, environmental, social, cultural and political impacts associated with tourism proposals, project development, tourist activity, industry expansion and industry decline.  
**Prerequisite:** RPTS 302.

RPTS 441 Tourism Experience  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**
Theoretical foundation 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, and websites.  
**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

RPTS 444 Service Quality for Hospitality Organizations  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**
Application of SERVQUAL concepts with focus on implementing measures to enhance customer service; in-depth study of planning and administering hospitality service strategies, measurement of service delivery, repair and recovery of service delivery gaps, and management and training of employees; practical applications of research in the field.  
**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification.

RPTS 445 Sustainability in International Tourism  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**
International tourism with a focus on the diversity of tourism practices and policies around the world and approaches scholars use to study tourism planning, management, marketing, sustainability and impacts; includes a required international field trip during spring break.  
**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

RPTS 446 Information Technology Adoption and Use in Recreation, Park and Tourism Organizations  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**
Theories of technology adoption and diffusion in recreation, park and tourism organizations; use of technology for knowledge management, benchmarking, and collaboration within leisure and tourism organizations.  
**Prerequisite:** RENR 201.

RPTS 454 Amazon Field School  
**Credits 4. 4 Lecture Hours.**
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.  
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior classification with a minimum GPA of 2.0 and approval of instructor.  
**Cross Listing:** VTPB 404 and WFSC 454.
RPTS 460/RENR 460 Nature, Values, and Protected Areas
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Writing-intensive discussion of the ways in which protected areas reflect human values about nature; identify stakeholders in and around protected areas, exploring how interests either conflict or coincide; evaluate social, economic, cultural, and ecological trade-offs of different approaches to conservation.
Prerequisite: RPTS 307 or RPTS 316; or 9 hours of credit in natural resource courses.
Cross Listing: RENR 460/RPTS 460.

RPTS 474 Management of Programs and Services for Youth
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Organizational behavior, administration and management of public, non-profit and commercial youth programs and agencies; strategic planning, marketing, financial resource development, budgeting and fiscal management; contemporary issues facing youth development field; international perspective on youth agencies.
Prerequisite: RPTS 304, RPTS 370 and RPTS 371.

RPTS 476 Leadership for Outdoor Recreation
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Leadership principles related to outdoor recreation; classroom instruction and experiential learning; skills training through field trips; risk management planning, environmental education, group facilitation, and trip planning.
Prerequisite: RPTS 370.

RPTS 478 Youth Development Practice
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Application of youth development philosophy in community settings; principles and practices of community youth development and existing youth development models; local efforts related to community youth development.
Prerequisite: RPTS 370, RPTS 371 and junior or senior classification.

RPTS 481 Seminar
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.
Development of knowledge and skills necessary for employment in the recreation, park and tourism fields; focus on career preparation and job search strategies, professionalism, networking and opportunities for advanced education.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification; RPTS majors only.

RPTS 484 Internship
Credits 1 to 6. 1 to 6 Other Hours.
Practical experience working in a professional recreation, park or tourism setting. Offered on an individual basis. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisite: RPTS 311, RPTS 340 and RPTS 481.

RPTS 485 Directed Studies
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.
For individual research by advanced undergraduates upon a broad range of subjects not included in established courses.
Prerequisite: Junior classification or approval of department head.

RPTS 489 Special Topics in...
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours. 0 to 9 Lab Hours.
Selected topics in an identified field of recreation and parks. May be repeated for credit.