

# MASTER OF RECREATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Master of Recreation and Youth Development program is designed for active and progressive youth development professionals. Many youth-serving professionals aspire to continue to pursue their careers while advancing their education and earning a graduate professional degree. MRYD students will join a cohort of fellow professionals to study advanced topics in developmental process, social psychology, management, marketing and financing youth serving organizations. Individuals will discover science-based techniques for structuring experiences that build character and help youth thrive.

The program is also approved for delivery via asynchronous distance education technology.

## Program Requirements

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## Student's Advisory Committee

### On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

After receiving admission to graduate studies and enrolling for coursework, a faculty member will be appointed to be chair of the student's advisory committee. The student's advisory committee for the Master of Recreation and Youth Development will consist of at least one member of the graduate faculty. Typically, this member may be the MRYD Program Coordinator and will serve as the student's committee chair or, the departmental graduate advisor may appoint/approve another departmental faculty member to serve as the appropriate chair of the student's advisory committee. Committees may include up to three members of the graduate committee faculty.

If additional committee members are deemed necessary by the department, the chair, in consultation with the student, will select the remainder of the advisory committee. The student will interview each prospective committee member to determine whether he or she is willing to serve. Only graduate faculty members located on Texas A&M University campuses may serve as chair of a student's advisory committee. Other graduate faculty members located off-campus may serve as a member or co-chair (but not chair), with a member as the chair. The chair of the committee, who usually has immediate supervision of the student's degree program, has the responsibility for calling required meetings of the committee, and for calling meetings at any other time considered desirable.

If the chair voluntarily leaves the University near completion of a student's degree, the student may select another chair or has the option of working through the Department Head to secure permission from the Graduate and Professional School for the chair to continue in his or her

role for up to one year. Extensions beyond the one-year period can be granted with additional approval from the Dean.

The duties of the chair include responsibility for the proposed degree plan. In addition, the chair is responsible for counseling the student on academic matters, and, in the case of academic deficiency, initiating recommendations to the Graduate and Professional School.

A chair's signature on the degree plan indicates their willingness to accept the responsibility for guiding and directing the entire academic program of the student and for initiating all academic actions concerning the student.

## Degree Plan

### On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

The student's advisory committee, in consultation with the student, will develop the proposed degree plan. The degree plan must be completed and filed with the Graduate and Professional School prior to the deadline imposed by the student's college.

This proposed degree plan should be submitted through the online Document Processing Submission System located on the website <https://ogsdpps.tamu.edu>.

Additional coursework may be added to the approved degree plan by petition if it is deemed necessary by the chair of the committee to correct deficiencies in the student's academic preparation.

No changes can be made to the degree plan once the student's Request for Final Examination or Request for Final Examination Exemption is approved by the Graduate and Professional School.

## Credit Requirement

### On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

A minimum of 36 hours is required for the Master in Recreation and Youth Development degree. Approximately 18 credit hours are to be taken outside of the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences.

## Transfer of Credit

### On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

A student who has earned 12 hours of graduate credit in residence at Texas A&M University may be authorized to transfer courses in excess of the limits prescribed above upon the advice of the advisory committee and with the approval of the Graduate and Professional School. Graduate and/or upper-level undergraduate courses taken in residence at an accredited U.S. institution or approved international institution with a final grade of B or greater, might be considered for transfer credit if, at the time the courses were completed, the courses would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for a student in degree-seeking status at the host institution. Otherwise, the limitations stated in the preceding section apply. Coursework in which no formal grades are given or in which grades other than letter grades (A or B) are earned (for example, CR, P, S, U, H, etc.) is not accepted for transfer credit. Courses appearing on the degree plan with grades of D, F or U may not be absolved by transfer work. Credit for thesis research or the equivalent is not transferable. Credit for coursework submitted for transfer from any college or university must be shown in semester credit hours or equated to semester credit hours. An official transcript from the university at which the transfer coursework was taken must be sent directly to the Office of Admissions.

Courses used toward a degree at another institution may not be applied for graduate credit. If the course to be transferred was taken prior to the conferral of a degree at the transfer institution, a letter from the Registrar at that institution stating that the course was not applied for credit toward the degree must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School.

Grades for courses completed at other institutions are not included in computing the GPA.

## Limitations on the Use of Transfer, Extension and Certain Other Courses

### On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

Some departments may have more restrictive requirements for transfer work. If otherwise acceptable, certain courses may be used toward meeting credit-hour requirements for the master's degree under the following limitations.

1. The maximum number of credit hours which may be considered for transfer credit is the greater of 12 hours or one-third (1/3) of the total hours of a degree plan. The following restrictions apply:
  - Graduate and/or upper-level undergraduate courses taken in residence at an accredited U.S. institution, or approved international institution with a final grade of B or greater will be considered for transfer credit if, at the time the courses were completed, the student was in degree-seeking status at Texas A&M University, or the student was in degree-seeking status at the institution at which the courses were taken; and if the courses would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for a student in degree-seeking status at the host institution.
  - Courses previously used for another degree are not acceptable for degree plan credit.
2. The maximum number of credit hours taken in post-baccalaureate non-degree (G6) classification at Texas A&M University which may be considered for application to the degree plan is 12.
3. A zero credit 684 or 685 course is only allowed for non-thesis option master's students. A zero credit 681 course can be used for either thesis or non-thesis option master's students. Other courses, including 691 (Research) hours, are not eligible for zero credit.
4. Any combination of 684, 685, or 690 may not exceed 25 percent of the total credit hour requirement shown on the individual degree plan:
  - A maximum of 8 hours of 684 (Professional Internship) and/or
  - A maximum of 8 hours of 685 (Directed Studies), and
  - Up to 3 hours of 690 (Theory of Research), and
5. A maximum of 2 hours of 681 (Seminar).
6. A maximum of 9 hours of advanced undergraduate courses (300- or 400-level).
7. For graduate courses of three weeks' duration or less, taken at other institutions, up to 1 hour of credit may be obtained for each five-day week of coursework. Each week of coursework must include at least 15 contact hours.
8. No credit hours of 691 (Research) may be used.
9. Continuing education courses may not be used for graduate credit.
10. Extension courses are not acceptable for credit.
11. For non-distance degree programs, no more than 50 percent of the credit hours required for the program may be completed through distance education courses. To receive a graduate degree from Texas A&M University, students must earn one-third or more of the credits

through the institution's own direct instruction. This limitation also applies to joint degree programs.

Exceptions will be permitted only in unusual cases and when petitioned by the student's advisory committee and approved by the Graduate and Professional School.

## Final Examination

### On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

A final comprehensive examination is not required for the MRYD in Recreation Youth Development non-thesis option.

## Additional Requirements

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## Residence

### On-Campus Degree Programs

A student must complete 12 credit hours in resident study at Texas A&M University to satisfy the residence requirement for the Master of Science in Recreation and Youth Development degree.

Students who are employed full-time while completing their degree may fulfill total residence requirements by completion of less-than-full time course loads each semester. In order to be considered for this, the student is required to submit a Petition for Waivers and Exceptions along with verification of his/her employment to the Graduate and Professional School.

See Residence Requirements (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degree requirementstext>).

### Distance Education Degree Program

The distance education modality does not have any residence requirement.

## Time Limit

### On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

All degree requirements must be completed within a period of seven consecutive years for the degree to be granted. A course will be considered valid until seven years after the end of the semester in which it is taken. Graduate credit for coursework which is more than seven calendar years old at the time of the final examination (oral or written) may not be used to satisfy degree requirements.

## Foreign Languages

### On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

A foreign language is not required for the Master of Recreation and Resources Development degree.

## Application for Degree

### On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

For information on applying for your degree, please visit the Graduation (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext>) section.