DEPARTMENT OF
RECREATION, PARK AND
TOURISM SCIENCES

http://rpts.tamu.edu

Head: C. Scott Shafer

Graduate Advisor: J. F. Petrick

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, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, Texas A&M University, 1977

Durko, Angela M, Instructional Assistant Professor
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2014

Ellis, Gary D, Professor
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, North Texas State University, 1983

Ettekal, Andrea V, Assistant Professor
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, Arizona State University, 2014

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

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

Jacobsen, Nicolas F, Assistant Lecturer
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2017

Jamal, Tazim B, Professor
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, University of Calgary, 1997

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

Kyle, Gerard T, Professor
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, Pennsylvania State University, 2001

Martz, Jill T, Executive Professor
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, University of Tennessee, 2004

Outley, Corliss D, Associate Professor
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, Pennsylvania State University, 2008

Petrick, James F, Professor
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, Clemson University, 1999

Ramer, Svitlana I, Lecturer
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, Pennsylvania State University, 2004

Richmond, Daniel J, Lecturer
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, University of Utah, 2016

Schuett, Michael A, Instructional Professor
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1991

Scott, David, Professor
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, Pennsylvania State University, 1990
Shafer, C S, Professor
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, Clemson University, 1993

Smith, William E, Assistant Lecturer
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2012

Stronza, Amanda L, Associate Professor
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, University of Florida, 2000

Suess Raeisinafchi, Courtney, Assistant Professor
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2014

Wang, Jun, Assistant Professor
Recreation, Park & Tourism Sc
PHD, Colorado State University, 2013

Masters

• Master of Recreation and Youth Development (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/recreation-park-tourism-sciences/mryd)

• 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)