Department Mission
The recreation management program at Texas State University focuses on innovative and evidence-based professional preparation to ready students for many different careers within the leisure services profession. Adhering to values of real-world experience, diversity and evidence-based practices, the recreation management program prepares professionals to meet the ever-changing needs of constituents. The goals are to prepare graduates who will lead the advancement of leisure services through innovative programming, professional service and research.

This program helped me to get back in the game of learning and understanding the trends and issues in the field. My association with this program has opened up so many doors for me, and I am extremely grateful.

— Deidre Flores, M.S.R.L.S. ’14,
Recreation Division Manager
at the City of Kyle Parks
and Recreation Department

Students prepare for administrative careers utilizing strategic management skills to coordinate recreation and leisure services in a variety of settings.
Why choose Texas State?
Faculty promote the richness of diversity and create a truly inclusive learning community. Affiliation with practitioners brings innovative content to the classes, and the strong alumni connection provides continued professional development support and job opportunities.

Graduate students in leisure services include students coming straight from their undergraduate internship to seasoned working professionals seeking career advancement. This variety enhances the peer and shared learning environment.

Course Work
Master of science in recreation and leisure studies (M.S.R.L.S.) students may choose either thesis or non-thesis degree routes. The non-thesis option, intended for students who are interested in extending their professional expertise, requires 36 hours of course work in recreation management theory and practice. Students will engage in an independent study or research project to enhance their career specialization. The 30-hour thesis option is best suited to students who have an undergraduate degree in recreation and/or professional work experience. This option includes 24 hours of recreation management course work, plus six hours of thesis credit. Electives in both options are determined in concert with a faculty to enhance the students’ specific goals within the profession.

Faculty
Faculty members of the M.S.R.L.S. program are involved in research pertaining to professional competencies, management issues, recreation education, serving diverse constituencies and understanding leisure spaces. Publishing faculty regularly serve in professional leadership roles for continuing education and professional associations. Faculty diversity is supported by adjunct graduate faculty who also hold prominent professional positions bringing current professional practice to the curriculum.

Career Options
The professional recreation manager works in diverse settings such as youth-serving agencies, churches, campus or military recreation, and governmental park and recreation services. Graduates may seek such credentials as a certified park and recreation professional or registry of collegiate recreational sports professionals.

Important Deadlines*
Admissions
Priority Fall: February 15
Fall: June 15
Spring: October 15
Summer: April 15
Summer midterm: June 1
Applications will continue to be considered on a space-available basis after the deadline.
Funding: Scholarships, Fellowships and Assistantships
Applications must be complete by the priority deadline to be considered for funding.

How to Apply
For information regarding admission requirements and submission instructions, please visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply
*International applicants can view specific deadlines and requirements at: gradcollege.txstate.edu/international

For information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/programs/msrls-mgmt