Therapeutic recreation is a unique profession with broad and endless opportunities. If you’re someone who enjoys experiencing something new every day and have a passion for people, this is for you!

– Katelyn Fischer, current M.S.R.L.S. student at Texas State University

Department Mission

The program in therapeutic recreation prepares graduates to apply the theory and technique of using activity-based interventions as part of a systematic education or rehabilitation process. Students will develop professional competency grounded in evidence-based practices and experiential learning, appropriate for attaining the state and national certifications required for practice. The breadth of studies will prepare students to work in diverse settings supporting persons with a variety of disabling conditions.
Why choose Texas State?
Matriculating within a cohort, students develop a deepened sense of community and collaborative learning. As the only therapeutic recreation program in the state, students have the opportunity to collaborate with professionals in a variety of service settings and consistently pass the national certification exam at a rate that exceeds the national average.

Students in each cohort include people with different backgrounds and career goals. This cohort environment contributes to collaborative peer learning and the development of lifelong professional affiliations.

Course Work
Students selecting the therapeutic recreation course of study may choose either thesis or non-thesis programs. The non-thesis option, intended for students who are seeking certification as a recreation therapist, includes 33 hours of course work followed by a full-time, three-credit-hour internship as a culminating experience. The 30-hour thesis option is best suited for students who already meet certification eligibility requirements and are seeking advanced specialization in the profession. Students complete 24 hours of 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 in therapeutic recreation hold the Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) credential and participate regularly in professional organizations and continuing education forums. Research interests include efficacy studies related to a variety of interventions along with current work in the use of yoga, adaptive sports and outdoor experiences. Their scope of research spans both facility and community-based programming and supports the inclusion of persons with disabling conditions in meaningful leisure experiences. Faculty proactively research collaboratively with students, leading to frequent co-presentations and publications.

Career Options
Therapeutic recreation, also known as recreation therapy, is an allied health profession that contributes to a broad scope of healthcare needs. Using experiential activities, the recreation therapist contributes to goals for improved functioning, prevention of secondary health conditions and enhanced living. Graduates work in treatment and residential facilities, community agencies and other agencies promoting the quality of life of persons with disabling conditions.

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.

Information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/programs/mslrs-tr

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

How to Apply
This information is available in alternate format upon request from the Office of Disability Services. Texas State University is a tobacco-free campus. 17-267