As time for leisure activities becomes scarcer, consumers will look for well-run programs that allow them to maximize use of that time.

The master of science in recreation and leisure services (MSRLS) is intended for those interested in the delivery of leisure services in the public, not-for-profit and private sectors. Through academic courses and practical experiences, we promote advocacy for the benefits of play, leisure and recreation across the life span for all. The degree program offers two majors: recreation management and therapeutic recreation.

Recreation management emphasizes theory and application of managerial and supervisory concepts. The professional recreation manager works in such diverse settings as youth-serving agencies; church, campus or military recreation; and governmental park and recreation services. Graduates may seek such credentials as the certified park and recreation professional or registry of collegiate recreational sports professionals.

Therapeutic recreation graduates employ recreation experiences as both a means to achieve health-enhancing goals and to support quality of life. Hospitals, day treatment programs, residential facilities, community-based programs, camps and schools are among a growing list of employment opportunities. The therapeutic recreation degree plan aligns with eligibility to sit for national examination for the certified therapeutic recreation specialist (CTRS) credential.
MSRLS students may choose either thesis or non-thesis programs. The thesis track is best suited to students who intend to pursue advanced studies or research beyond the master’s degree. The thesis option includes 24 hours of course work plus six hours of thesis credit. The non-thesis option is intended for students who are interested in extending their expertise in preparation for professional practice. This option requires 36 hours of course work.

Required Courses for Recreation Management
- Philosophical Foundations of RLS
- Social Science of RLS
- Literature and Research
- Legal and Ethical Issues in RLS
- Administering Leisure Delivery Systems
- Applications of Management in RLS Organizations
- Applications of Marketing and Finance in RLS

Required Courses for Therapeutic Recreation
- Philosophical Foundations in Recreation and Leisure Services
- Literature and Research
- Philosophical Foundations of TR
- Advanced Practices and Interventions in TR
- Advanced Assessment and Documentation in TR
- Advanced Principles in TR
- Advanced TR in Psychology

Electives
The remaining hours in each program are determined in concert with the graduate coordinator or major professor. These credits are selected on an individual basis to enhance the students’ specific goals within the profession and may include additional course work within the recreation curriculum, in other disciplines, field placements, or independent study projects. TR students who do not possess the CTRS credential are required to complete REC 5338, Internship in TR. For more information on the degree program and classes, visit www.hhp.txstate.edu.

Admission
In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Texas State Graduate College, the Department of Health and Human Performance requires a minimum GPA of 2.75 on the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work. Conditional admission may be granted to applicants with a GPA between 2.5 and 2.74.

Each applicant must submit the following to the Graduate College at Texas State:
- an online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
- application fee
- one official transcript from each four-year college or university attended

Students seeking admission to the TR specialization are encouraged to begin studies in the fall semester due to course sequencing. Recreation management students may begin fall, spring or summer semesters. Due to limited course offerings during the summer, applicants are encouraged to apply for the fall and spring semester. Fall admission applications are reviewed beginning March 15, with a June 15 deadline. Spring admission applications are due by October 15, and summer admission applications are due April 15.

Financial Assistance
The Department of Health and Human Performance awards competitive graduate assistantships to highly qualified individuals interested in serving as either research or teaching assistants. Selection is based on the student’s academic background and professional experience. For more information, contact the department.

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit the Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

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