

RECREATION AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT

What can I do with this degree?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

COMMERCIAL RECREATION/TOURISM

Travel/Transportation

Convention services
Travel agencies
Travel/tourism bureaus
Cruise lines
Airlines
Bus lines
Railroads

Develop strong programming, leadership and communication skills.
Obtain business skills with business minor or work experience.
Acquire foreign language skills.

Hospitality

Hotels, motels
Restaurants
Resorts
Taverns
Motor home parks
Campgrounds
Recreation communities
Theme parks
Private industry
Second home communities
Special events companies

Obtain experience working at resorts, in hotels, for recreation departments or at special events companies.
Work or volunteer for departments on campus that plan conferences.
Spend summers working at tourist attractions.

Local Commercial Recreation

Multipurpose sports clubs
Racquet clubs
Dance studios
Health and fitness clubs
Golf courses
Movie theaters
Skating rinks
Bowling lanes
Party services
Amusement parks
Various entertainment providers
Vendors
Concessionaires

Learn membership sales techniques.
Develop high knowledge and ability for skill area.
Gain experience through related part-time or summer jobs.
Work at on-campus recreational facilities.

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STRATEGIES

HEALTHCARE

Therapeutic Recreation

Rehabilitation hospitals
Nursing homes
Acute care hospitals
Psychiatric facilities
Community mental health centers
Senior centers
Adult daycare centers
Residential facilities for people with special needs
Substance abuse centers
Correctional facilities
Recovery centers
Educational facilities

Demonstrate ability to work as part of an interdisciplinary team.
Obtain therapeutic recreation emphasis or graduate degree in area.
May require licensure, certification or registration.
Need ability to be patient, tactful and persuasive.
Possess ingenuity and imagination.
Have good physical coordination.
Must enjoy working with all types of people.
Gain experience through volunteering in related organizations.

GOVERNMENT

Outdoor Recreation Planning
Parks
Natural Resource Management
Recreation Management
Program Management
Business Management

City, county or regional government agencies including parks and public recreation programs
Correctional facilities
Conservation
Rehabilitation centers
State and federal government agencies including parks, forests, wildlife areas and water resources
Department of Defense
military bases in U.S. and foreign countries

Learn federal, state and local job application procedures.
Obtain experience with government agencies.
Become active in local recreation programs and activities.
Volunteer to lead teams or organize committees in local recreation leagues.
Take additional coursework in wildlife, turf management, exercise science or other related field.

SOCIAL SERVICE

Camp Management
Program Management
Community Center Management
Coaching
Writing

Camps
Children's homes
Correctional facilities
Senior centers
Youth programs
Special Olympics
Community programs for people with special needs
Nonprofit organizations
Community centers
Religiously affiliated organizations

Obtain experience with camps, youth groups, etc. through summer jobs and volunteer positions.
Get involved in campus activities and seek leadership roles.

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STRATEGIES

FITNESS

Health Club Management
Fitness Instructing
Dance Instructing
Coaching
Athletic Training

Fitness centers
Corporate fitness centers
Weight reduction facilities
Sports and entertainment centers
Athletic clubs
Adult care facilities
Sports clinics
Self employment

Obtain experience and expertise in various athletic/fitness areas.
Work at on-campus recreational facilities.
Obtain certification in area if available.
Develop excellent physical coordination and condition.

ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDERS

Travel and Tourism
Resort Management

Facilities Management

Promotion
Writing/Editing

Airlines, cruise lines, resorts
Motels/hotels

Movie theaters, amusement parks, water theme parks, arenas, stadiums, fairs, festivals
Concert promotion
Publishers of magazines, newspapers, websites

Participate in related campus activities like Campus Entertainment Board, Cultural Attractions Committee, etc.
Get experience in campus theater, classes and production.

Develop strong writing skills and computer aptitude.

INDUSTRIAL RECREATION

Industry
Employees associations/unions
Corporate fitness centers

Obtain experience and skills in a variety of areas.
Get experience in program planning for various ages.
Earn related certifications.

RECREATION RETAILING

Department stores
Specialty shops
Sporting goods stores

Gain experience in direct sales and customer service.
Develop skills in management and motivation of others.
Get experience in promotion and special events.
Acquire skills in inventory management including purchasing, stock control and merchandise display.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

EDUCATION

Teaching
Research
Coaching
Administration/Recreation Facilities

Universities/colleges
Elementary/secondary schools

Graduate degree required for teaching and administrative positions.
Learn process for certification/licensing for teaching K-12.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Obtain summer, part-time, internship, or volunteer experience in camps, playgrounds, recreation/fitness centers, social service organizations, hotels, tourist attractions, etc.
- Undergraduate degree sufficient for entry-level recreation positions.
- Graduate work required for administrative positions and teaching/research positions at universities/colleges.
- Obtain broad liberal arts and cultural background including knowledge/skills in athletics, music, arts and crafts, nature, dance, drama and club structure.
- Obtain certification in first aid and safety, CPR, lifeguarding, depending on your interests.
- Enjoy the outdoors and/or be willing to work outdoors.
- Develop physical agility and stamina for your career.
- Develop good verbal and written communication skills.
- Join related professional associations.
- Attend state/national professional association conferences.
- Develop ability to motivate others.
- Possess ability to enjoy life and positively interact with others.
- Obtain competence and skills in special area(s) of interest.
- Develop ability to work effectively with people of various ages and backgrounds.
- Possess cooperative attitude toward others as well as common sense in understanding and dealing with people and situations.
- Demonstrate ability to work as part of a team.
- Obtain knowledge of U.S. and world geography, history and social customs. Consider taking foreign language depending on your career interests.
- Develop leadership and supervisory skills in coordinating and directing others in various activities.
- Consider participating in the Walt Disney College Program.