



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Recreation, Park & Tourism Administration

Department of Recreation, Park & Tourism Administration, College of Education & Human Services
Western Illinois University—Quad Cities

Program of Study

The Recreation, Park & Tourism Administration curriculum is designed to prepare you for employment at recreational, health, and human services agencies. We emphasize innovative instructional techniques and learning experiences through application of knowledge and skills in career-related settings. Students can choose an area of concentration in either leisure services administration or therapeutic recreation.

Scholarships and Honors in RPTA

The RPTA department currently offers 12 scholarships and awards to its majors, seven of which are named after RPTA Emeriti faculty. Other scholarships are available to our students from outside agencies such as the Illinois Park and Recreation Association, the National Recreation and Park Association, the Illinois Tourism Council, and a variety of park districts and other agencies throughout the state. The amount of these awards ranges from \$100 to \$1,500. Contact the RPTA office, (309) 298-1967, for more detailed information on department scholarships. Additional information on scholarships is available from the Scholarship office, (309) 298-2001, or on the Web at wiu.edu/Scholarship. There are also scholarships available to WIU-QC students. To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, transfer students must have a 3.4 or higher GPA and 40 semester hours of remaining coursework at WIU-QC.

Student Activities

RPTA majors who qualify may apply for membership in Rho Phi Lambda, the National Professional Recreation, Park, and Leisure Services honorary fraternity.

Special Opportunities

- Students graduating with a B.S. in Recreation, Park & Tourism Administration are immediately eligible to sit for the examination to become a Certified Park and Recreation Professional and thereby acquire this valuable credential for professional advancement. Successful completion of prescribed courses in therapeutic recreation results in eligibility to sit for the examination to become a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist.
- Nonprofit education and certification is available through an affiliation with American Humanics, an alliance with national partners such as YMCA, Junior Achievement, Campfire, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and others.
- Professional mentors are available to advise students on career options. Mentors help students establish themselves in the recreation, health, and human services field by suggesting employment and/or volunteer opportunities, helping students with résumés and cover letters, introducing them to other leisure services practitioners, and inviting them to participate in professional association events. Mentors are experienced senior administrators and recreation, health, and human services providers who work in the Quad Cities area.
- Each spring, the department sponsors the Professional Development Conference during which alumni of the department return and present seminars on topics that are purposeful for young professionals.

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- The RPTA department also offers travel workshops, which are opportunities for students to gain additional learning, skills, and professional preparation broadly in the field. The travel workshops are scheduled throughout the year and vary with each course in terms of credit available.
- Students are required to do a 12-week internship that may occur during the fall, spring, or summer. Students research, interview, and select, along with the internship coordinator, an appropriate site. In addition to the site supervisor, each student will be assigned a faculty supervisor to work with during the internship.



RPTA – Quad Cities Curriculum

Professional Core Courses (a total of 33 to 39 SH required)

RPTA 111	3	Introduction to Leisure Services (equivalent to Black Hawk College HPE 211)
RPTA 199	1 to 2	Fieldwork in Leisure Services
RPTA 230	3	Leadership in Leisure Services (equivalent to Black Hawk College HPE 215)
RPTA 235	3	Programming Principles & Applications in Leisure Services
RPTA 251	3	Inclusive Leisure Services for Persons with Disabilities
RPTA 322	3	Administration of Leisure Services
RPTA 376	3	Perspectives in Outdoor Recreation
RPTA 397	3	Research and Evaluation in Leisure Services
RPTA 398	1	Internship Seminar
RPTA 399	1	Issues in Leisure Services
RPTA 482	3	Facility Management
RPTA 499	12	Internship in Leisure Services

In addition to the completion of professional core courses, students must complete a minimum of 10 SH of Professional Electives either in Leisure Services Administration or Therapeutic Recreation.

Leisure Services Administration (minimum of 10 SH required)

RPTA 270	3	Introduction to Nonprofit Organizations
RPTA 362	3	Tourism
RPTA 366	3	Commercial Recreation
RPTA 422	3	Advanced Administration in Leisure Services
RPTA 424	3	Fund Raising and Volunteerism in Leisure Services
RPTA 428	3	Youth and Leisure Services
RPTA 430	3	Principles of Recreational Sports
RPTA 448	3	Interpretation of Cultural and Environmental Resources
RPTA 450	1-3	Traveling Workshops (repeatable to 6 SH)
RPTA 460	3	Community Tourism Development
RPTA 461	3	Conference and Convention Planning and Management
RPTA 467	3	Special Event Planning and Management
RPTA 470	0	American Humanics Management Institute: Nonprofit Youth and Human Services Organizations
RPTA 490	1-3	Independent Study

Therapeutic Recreation (minimum of 12 SH required)

RPTA 351	3	Therapeutic Recreation Assessment and Evaluation
RPTA 451	3	Principles of Therapeutic Recreation
RPTA 453	3	Clinical Therapeutic Recreation Processes
RPTA 454	3	Management of Therapeutic Recreation

Note: In addition to the departmental coursework, students will be required to have met the University's General Education requirements and a minor if in Leisure Services Administration or directed electives if in Therapeutic Recreation.

After College

Professional careers in recreation and leisure services offer challenging, meaningful, and highly rewarding opportunities. Whether your interests are in working with children, teens, adults, or seniors; with outdoor adventure, cultural arts, sports, or social activities; or in hospital/clinical settings, theme parks, or the military, recreation and leisure services offer job opportunities for you.

wiu.edu/qc/rpta

Department of Recreation, Park & Tourism Administration – Quad Cities

Western Illinois University–Quad Cities
 3561 60th Street • Moline, IL 61265
 Admissions: (309) 762-1495 • Advising: (309) 762-1988
 wiu-qc@wiu.edu



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