The Doctoral degree allows students to match their particular research interests and career aspirations with departmental research activities and faculty expertise. The primary areas of interest for students include health and well-being, human dimensions of the natural and built environment, sustainable and equitable tourism, and geospatial methods and modelling with a substantive area of study in another discipline.

The Master’s degree provides students the opportunity to develop and enhance their critical understanding of both the conceptual foundations of parks, recreation and tourism management and the procedures of systematic inquiry and critical problem solving as applied to planning and management issues. The department offers educational opportunities and resources for the preparation of professionals concerned with planning, organizing, managing and directing parks, recreation, sport, and tourism programs, areas, and facilities. Several Master’s Degree options are available: MS in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, MS in Natural Resources-Outdoor Recreation Technical Option, Master of Natural Resources (MNR)-Outdoor Recreation Technical Option (non-thesis), and Online Professional Master of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Sport Management (MPRTSM) (non-thesis). The Department also administers the Graduate Certificate in Sport and Entertainment Venue Management.

The general emphasis areas at the Master’s level include: parks and recreation management, tourism development and management, geographic information systems, recreational sport management, and natural resource recreation management. The MS-NR and MNR (Outdoor Recreation Technical Option) develops the knowledge and skills needed for planning and managing natural resource-based outdoor recreation opportunities and resources.

The online MPRTSM degree provides students with a solid professional and business education designed to advance their career development in parks, recreation, tourism, and sport industries. The online degree program operates on a cohort model and admits students in fall and spring semester.

Doctoral Degree Requirements

Although each doctoral course of study will be unique to the individual student, the usual course of study will include a minimum of 54 hours beyond the Master’s. These credit hours are distributed among the core courses, statistics and research methods, a minor or substantive area consisting of 15 hours of course work approved by the student’s faculty advisor, and the dissertation. Students are expected to have completed a Master’s degree, preferably one with a thesis. Students without research experience will have to demonstrate an ability to produce scholarly work in PRTM.

Master’s Degree Requirements

Each Master’s Degree has specific requirements. The minimum credit hours range from 30 for MS in PRTM Degree, to 34 for MNR-Outdoor Recreation Technical Option Degree. Doctoral and M.S. application deadline is January 15 for both U.S. and international students. Online Degree-MPRTSM application deadline is May 15.

Student Financial Support

Graduate assistantships are available to students in PhD and MS degree program on a competitive basis.

Degrees

- Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Sports Management (MR) (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/graduate/natural-resources/parks-recreation-tourism-management/parks-recreation-tourism-sport-management-mr/)
- Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management (MS) (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/graduate/natural-resources/parks-recreation-tourism-management/parks-recreation-tourism-management-ms/)
- Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management (PhD) (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/graduate/natural-resources/parks-recreation-tourism-management/parks-recreation-tourism-management-phd/)
- Human Dimensions of Natural Resources (Minor) (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/graduate/natural-resources/parks-recreation-tourism-management/human-dimensions-natural-resources-minor/)
- Sport and Entertainment Venue Management (Certificate) (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/graduate/natural-resources/parks-recreation-tourism-management/sport-entertainment-venue-management-certificate/)

Faculty

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