

Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management (BS): Recreation and Park Management Concentration

The curriculum in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management is a professional program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions. The curriculum provides students with a broad education in natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences, and fosters the professional, technical, and communication skills needed to plan and implement recreation programs and tourism events, manage parks and facilities, and design tourism services.

The curriculum is designed to prepare students for a variety of positions in a dynamic, people-centered profession that includes some of the fastest growing sectors of the global economy. The curriculum provides 42 hours of core coursework that includes foundations of tourism and event management, geospatial problem solving, outdoor recreation management, organizational leadership, fiscal management, and recreation programming.

In addition to the general education requirements and the core professional requirements, students can attain specialized training by choosing a concentration - either Recreation and Park Management (RPM) or Tourism and Event Management (TEM) - and selecting 15 hours of coursework related to their professional interests.

Academic studies on campus are supplemented by service learning opportunities, practical experiences in the Triangle area, and a 10-week internship with a park, recreation, event, or tourism organization. Other optional and encouraged opportunities include a weeklong experience at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, faculty-supervised research projects, and study abroad opportunities.

Recreation & Park Management (15 hours)

This concentration is designed for people interested in promoting community health and wellbeing, who enjoy program/facility development, who are interested in environmental protection and conservation, and who want to make a positive impact on the lives of others and the natural environment. Examples of concentration courses include: Adventure Education; Outdoor Leadership; Environmental Education; Recreation and Park Interpretive Services; and Recreation Planning and Facility Development.

Plan Requirements

Code	Title	Hours	Counts towards
PRT Major			
PRT 150	Recreation, Sport, Tourism, and Event Management Orientation	1	
PRT 152	Introduction to Parks, Recreation, Tourism, and Event Management (CP)	3	
PRT 220	Foundations of Tourism and Event Management	3	
PRT 230	Foundations of Outdoor Recreation Management	3	
PRT 238	Diversity and Inclusion in Recreation and Sport	3	
PRT 240	Geospatial Applications for Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Event Management	4	
PRT 358	Recreation Program Planning (CP)	4	
PRT 359	Organizational Leadership in Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Event Management	3	
PRT 371	Risk Management in Parks, Recreation, Tourism, and Event Management	2	
PRT 375	Professional Development and Internship Orientation	2	

PRT 380	Evidence-based decision making in Recreation, Sport, Tourism, and Event Management (CP)	3
PRT 454	Finance and Economics of Parks, Recreation, Tourism, and Event Management	3
PRT 475	Recreation and Park Internship	8
Math		
MA 105	Mathematics of Finance	3
or MA 107	Precalculus I	
or MA 111	Precalculus Algebra and Trigonometry	
or MA 114	Introduction to Finite Mathematics with Applications	
or MA 121	Elements of Calculus	
ST 311	Introduction to Statistics	3
or ST 350	Economics and Business Statistics	
or BUS 350	Economics and Business Statistics	
Other Major		
COM 110	Public Speaking	3
or COM 112	Interpersonal Communication	
ARE 201	Introduction to Agricultural & Resource Economics	3
or ARE 201A	Introduction to Agricultural & Resource Economics	
or EC 201	Principles of Microeconomics	
or EC 205	Fundamentals of Economics	
Concentration Electives (p. 2)		15
Free Electives		21
GEP Courses		
GEP Natural Sciences (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-natural-sciences/)		7
ENG 101	Academic Writing and Research ¹	4
GEP Humanities (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-humanities/)		6
GEP Social Sciences (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-social-sciences/)		3

GEP Elective (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/)	3
GEP Interdisciplinary Perspectives (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-interdisciplinary-perspectives/)	5
GEP Health and Exercise Studies (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-health-exercise-studies/)	2
GEP Global Knowledge (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-global-knowledge/) (verify requirement)	
World Language Proficiency (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/world-language-proficiency/) (verify requirement)	
Total Hours	120

¹ A grade of C- or greater required.

Mathematics Electives

Code	Title	Hours	Counts towards
MA 105	Mathematics of Finance	3	
MA 107	Precalculus I	3	
MA 111	Precalculus Algebra and Trigonometry	3	
MA 114	Introduction to Finite Mathematics with Applications	3	
MA 121	Elements of Calculus	3	

Concentration Electives

Code	Title	Hours	Counts towards
PRT 214	Foundations in Outdoor Leadership and Adventure Education	3	
PRT 250	Facilities Management in Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Event Management	3	

PRT 307	Services, Facilities and Event Marketing	3
PRT 342	Recreation and Park Interpretive Services	3
PRT 415	Principles and Practices of Outdoor Leadership	3
PRT 451	Principles of Recreation Planning and Facility Development	3
PRT 452	Field Experience in Nature-Based Recreation & Tourism Management	3
PRT 485	Environmental Education in Practice	3

Semester Sequence

This is a sample.

Critical Path Courses – identify using the code (CP) which courses are considered critical path courses which represent specific major requirements that are predictive of student success in a given program/plan.

First Year

Fall Semester		Hours
PRT 150	Recreation, Sport, Tourism, and Event Management Orientation	1
PRT 152	Introduction to Parks, Recreation, Tourism, and Event Management (CP) ¹	3
ENG 101	Academic Writing and Research ¹	4
Mathematics Elective (p.)		3
GEP Requirement (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/)		4
Hours		15

Spring Semester

PRT 220	Foundations of Tourism and Event Management	3
PRT 238	Diversity and Inclusion in Recreation and Sport	3
GEP Requirement (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/)		3
GEP Requirement (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/)		3
GEP Requirement (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/)		3
GEP Health and Exercise Studies (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-health-exercise-studies/)		1
Hours		16

Second Year

Fall Semester

PRT 230	Foundations of Outdoor Recreation Management	3
PRT 240	Geospatial Applications for Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Event Management	3
GEP Requirement (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/)		3
COM 110 or COM 112	Public Speaking or Interpersonal Communication	3
Free Elective ²		3
Hours		15

Spring Semester

Concentration (p. 2)		3
Select one of the following		3
ARE 201	Introduction to Agricultural & Resource Economics	
ARE 201A	Introduction to Agricultural & Resource Economics	
EC 201	Principles of Microeconomics	
EC 205	Fundamentals of Economics	
GEP Requirement (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/)		3
GEP Interdisciplinary Perspectives (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-interdisciplinary-perspectives/)		2-3
Free Elective ²		3
Hours		15

Third Year

Fall Semester

PRT 359	Organizational Leadership in Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Event Management (CP) ¹	3
PRT 371	Risk Management in Parks, Recreation, Tourism, and Event Management	3
ST 311	Introduction to Statistics	3
PRT 375	Professional Development and Internship Orientation	2
Concentration (p. 2)		3
Hours		14

Spring Semester

PRT 358	Recreation Program Planning	4
PRT 380	Evidence-based decision making in Recreation, Sport, Tourism, and Event Management (CP) ¹	3
GEP Interdisciplinary Perspectives (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-interdisciplinary-perspectives/)		2-3
GEP Health and Exercise Studies (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-health-exercise-studies/)		1
Free Electives ²		6
Hours		16

Summer		
PRT 475	Recreation and Park Internship	8
Hours		8
Fourth Year		
Fall Semester		
PRT 454	Finance and Economics of Parks, Recreation, Tourism, and Event Management	3
Concentration (p. 2)		6
Free Elective ²		3
Hours		12
Spring Semester		
Concentration (p. 2)		3
Free Electives ²		6
Hours		9
Total Hours		120

¹ A grade of C- or greater required.

² A maximum of 12 credit hours of free electives can be taken for credit only.

Career Opportunities

Increased leisure time has created opportunities for growth in the park and natural resource recreation professions. Additional growth is expected in years to come as visitation to parks and protected areas continues to increase. Primary goals of recreation and park professionals include: providing exceptional and safe visitor experiences, improving human health and well-being, conserving natural and cultural resources, and planning for future growth and use. These goals are accomplished by providing recreation programs and facilities that are inclusive of, and accessible to, the diversity of the American population in a variety of settings.

Career opportunities include employment by park and recreation departments operated by county and municipal governments; state agencies, such as state parks; federal government, with agencies such as the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Land Management; and other protected area organizations, like The Nature Conservancy. The program also prepares students to enter the rapidly growing private sector within the outdoor recreation industry, like adventure guiding services and outdoor recreation planning and consulting. Other major employers include youth and family service organizations, such as the YMCA, YWCA, Boy's Clubs, and Boy and Girl Scouts. These types of organizations employ recreation directors to head employee recreation programs.

Career Titles

- Camp Director
- Fish and Game Warden
- Golf Course Manager
- Outdoor Education Teacher
- Park Naturalist
- Recreation Worker

Learn More About Careers

NCcareers.org (<https://nccareers.org/>)

Explore North Carolina's central online resource for students, parents, educators, job seekers and career counselors looking for high quality job and career information.

Occupational Outlook Handbook (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>)

Browse the Occupational Outlook Handbook published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to view state and area employment and wage statistics. You can also identify and compare similar occupations based on your interests.

Career One Stop Videos (<https://www.careeronestop.org/>)

View videos that provide career details and information on wages, employment trends, skills needed, and more for any occupation. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Focus 2 Career Assessment (<https://careers.dasa.ncsu.edu/explore-careers/career-assessments/>) (NC State student email address required)

This career, major and education planning system is available to current NC State students to learn about how your values, interests, competencies, and personality fit into the NC State majors and your future career. An NC State email address is required to create an account. Make an appointment with your career counselor (<https://careers.dasa.ncsu.edu/about/hours-appointments/>) to discuss the results.

Focus 2 Apply Assessment (<https://www.focus2career.com/Portal/Register.cfm?SID=1929>) (Available to prospective students)

A career assessment tool designed to support prospective students in exploring and choosing the right major and career path based on your unique personality, interests, skills and values. Get started with Focus 2 Apply and see how it can guide your journey at NC State.

National Recreation and Parks Association (<https://www.nrpa.org/>)