

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

To see more about what you will learn in this program, visit the Learning Outcomes website (<https://apps.oirp.ncsu.edu/pgas/>)!

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 | |

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| 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 | |

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| ST 311 | Introduction to Statistics | 3 |
| or ST 350 | Economics and Business Statistics | |
| or BUS 350 | Economics and Business Statistics | |

Other Major

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| 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

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|--|---|
| 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 |

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|---|---|
| GEP US Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-usdei/) | 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) | |
| Foreign Language Proficiency (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/foreign-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 | |

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|---------|--|---|
| 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

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|----------------------|--|-----------|
| 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

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|--|--|-----------|
| 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

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|--------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| 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 |

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|--------------------|--|------------|
| 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.