

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

What can I do with this Major?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

Commercial Recreation/Tourism
Travel/Transportation

Convention services
Travel agencies
Travel/tourism bureaus
Outdoor outfitters
Guide services
Ecotourism agencies
Cruise lines
Airlines
Bus lines
Rail travel

-Develop strong programming, leadership and communication skills.
-Obtain business skills with business minor or work experience.
-Acquire foreign language skills and complete a study abroad experience.
-Travel to different parts of the country or world to gain exposure to various cultures.
-Join University organizations related to travel or recreation

Hospitality
Facilities Management
Resort Management
Event Planning

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

Local Commercial Recreation
Promotions and Special Events
Facilities Management

Multipurpose sports clubs
Racquet clubs
Dance studios
Health and fitness clubs
Golf courses
Movie theaters
Skating rinks
Party services
Various entertainment providers
Festivals and fairs
Sport events
Vendors
Concessionaires

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-For more information about salary, job outlook and general descriptions: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Government

Outdoor Recreation Planning
Parks
Natural Resource management
Recreation Management
Program Management
Administration

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

-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.
-For more information about salary, job outlook and general descriptions: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Social Service

Camp Management
Program Management
Community Center management
Programming
Coaching

Camps
Children's homes
Correctional facilities
Senior centers
Youth programs
Special Olympics
Community programs for people with special needs
Nonprofit and social service 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.
-Learn to work well with a wide variety of people.
-For more information about salary, job outlook and general descriptions: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

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 and fitness areas.
-Work at on-campus recreational facilities.
-Obtain relevant certifications such as personal trainer or fitness instructor.
-Develop excellent physical coordination and condition.
-Get involved in related professional organizations.
-For more information about salary, job outlook and general descriptions: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Recreation Retailing

Management
Buying
Small Business Ownership

Department stores
Specialty shops
Sporting goods stores
Outdoor outfitters

-Minor in business. Learn basic business principles.
-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.
-Develop expertise in a recreational interest such as hiking, fishing, paddling, skiing, or hunting.
-For more information about salary, job outlook and general descriptions: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Education

Teaching
Research
Coaching
Administration

Universities/colleges
Elementary/secondary schools

-Earn a graduate degree for teaching and administration at the college and University level.
-Learn the process for teacher certification in the K-12 system.
-Get involved in recreation sports or intramurals as an undergraduate student.
-For more information about salary, job outlook and general descriptions: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Therapeutic Recreation

Program Coordination
Administration

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
Camps and outdoor recreational programs

-Demonstrate ability to work as part of an interdisciplinary team.
-Obtain therapeutic recreation emphasis or graduate degree in area.
-Earn relevant licensure or certification.
-Learn to be patient, tactful, and persuasive.
-Possess ingenuity and imagination.
-Have good physical coordination.
-Develop an interest in working with all types of people.
-Gain experience through volunteering in related organizations.
-For more information about salary, job outlook and general descriptions: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

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General Information

Obtain summer, part-time, internship, or volunteer experience in camps, playgrounds, recreation/fitness centers, social service organizations, hotels, tourist attractions, etc.

- An undergraduate degree is sufficient for entry-level recreation positions. A graduate degree may be required for administrative positions and teaching/research positions at universities and colleges.
- Obtain a 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, or lifeguarding depending upon 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.
- Cultivate the ability to motivate others.
- Possess the ability to enjoy life and positively interact with others.
- Obtain competence and skills in special area(s) of interest.
- Learn to work effectively with people of various ages and backgrounds.
- Possess a cooperative attitude toward others as well as common sense in understanding and dealing with people and situations.
- Demonstrate the 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.
- For more information on your major visit: <http://www.onetonline.org/>

Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (1996, Revised 2002, Revised 2004)
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