

# Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources

## Degrees Offered

- Master of Science with a major in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources

The Division of Forestry and Natural Resources offers program options leading to the master of science for students who wish to major in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources. Students selecting this graduate program may focus on field-related specialties including (but not limited to) recreation management and policy, environmental interpretation, and natural resource-based tourism. All students are required to complete a total of thirty-five credit hours and complete a thesis.

## Admissions

Students seeking admission for the degree of Master of Science in recreation, parks, and tourism resources should have completed an undergraduate curriculum emphasizing natural resources recreation. A student whose undergraduate degree is in a field other than this discipline will ordinarily be required to take supplemental undergraduate courses as part of their degree work. Students selecting this graduate program may emphasize recreation management and policy, environmental education and interpretation, or natural resource-based tourism. All students are required to complete a total of thirty-five credit hours and complete a thesis. For more information, go to: <http://recreation.wvu.edu/>.

A candidate for the M.S. degree in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism must meet all University, College, Division, and Program requirements as outlined in the WVU Graduate Catalog.

## Program Requirements

All M.S. degree candidates are required to follow a planned program of study. The student develops the plan of study during their first year in the program in conjunction with the graduate committee. The plan must be approved by the Director of the Division and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the Davis College.

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required in all courses applied toward degree requirements.

<b>Research Methods and Statistics courses</b>		<b>8</b>
FOR 470	Problems in Forestry, Wood Science, Wildlife, or Recreation	
STAT 511 or EDP 613	Statistical Methods 1	
RPTR 796	Graduate Seminar (taken twice)	
<b>Recreation, Parks, &amp; Tourism Resources courses (take 4 classes from the following list)</b>		<b>12</b>
FOR 670	Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management	
RPTR 714	Outdoor Recreation Behavior	
RPTR 680	Non-Personal Interpretation	
RPTR 685	Personal Interpretation	
RPTR 738	Tourism Planning	
RPTR 752	Tourism and Natural Resources Marketing	
RPTR 693	Special Topics	
<b>Cognate Area</b>		<b>12</b>
Four courses in a chosen cognate area (AGEE, EDP, FOR, RPTR, RESM, FMAN at 400-level and above)		
FOR 698	Thesis or Dissertation	<b>3</b>
Total Hours		<b>35</b>

A thesis requires collecting a qualitative or quantitative data set for the purpose of conducting action-oriented research (e.g., program or needs assessments), cooperative research (e.g., cooperative problem solving), and/or theory development (e.g., hypothesis testing). The specific requirements for each student are determined by the thesis chair and committee members. This program ordinarily requires two years of residence.

## Major Learning Outcomes

### RECREATION, PARKS, AND TOURISM RESOURCES

1. Students will be able to apply a broad range of social science theories and methods to policy, planning, and management challenges and opportunities in the recreation, tourism, and natural resource fields.

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2. Students will be able to design and conduct field relevant research to address natural resource based recreation and tourism questions and problems.
3. Students will be able to analyze and interpret research data that addresses natural resource based recreation and tourism questions and problems.
4. Students will communicate effectively in writing and oral presentations to professional and lay audiences about issues in the RPTR field.
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to remain current with contemporary issues within one's field and related areas.