Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, B.S.R.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Science in Recreation

Nature of the Program

The recreation, parks, and tourism resources major prepares students for careers providing outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities for a wide range of public, commercial, and non-profit agencies. This is a natural resource management degree program, emphasizing the ecological, economic, social, and psychological aspects of managing outdoor recreation and tourism resources. A required core of natural resource-based recreation and tourism management courses is complemented by forestry and natural resource management emphasis courses and other required University courses.

Visit the recreation, parks, and tourism resources (https://forestry.wvu.edu/undergraduate/majors/recreation-parks-and-tourism/) major page for more information or e-mail the program coordinator at: David.Smaldone@mail.wvu.edu. Come visit our Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources office in the Division of Forestry and Natural Resources, 325 Percival Hall, P.O. Box 6125, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506-6125.

Professional Preparation and Areas of Emphasis

The professional preparation program in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources is grounded in the RPTR core required courses and capped with a professional internship program, usually during the summer following the student's junior year. Students are encouraged to develop focused emphasis areas in specialties such as park and outdoor recreation, adventure recreation, or sustainable tourism through careful selection of focused electives. RPTR majors are also urged to seek both volunteer and paid seasonal employment and service learning opportunities in the recreation, parks, and tourism field to enhance their employability when graduating. Finally, RPTR majors are mentored into becoming active in professional societies and associations such as the student-led Professional Recreation and Park Society, Society of American Foresters, and National Recreation and Park Association, and they are encouraged to earn professional certification in areas such as sustainable tourism, leadership, and wilderness first responder.

Admissions

- First-Time Freshman are admitted directly into the Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources major.
- Students transferring from another major within WVU are directly admitted to the Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources major if they are in good academic standing (2.0 or higher GPA).
- Students transferring from another institution are directly admitted to the Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources major if they are in good academic standing (2.0 or higher GPA).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS 2022-2023

The Admission Requirements above will be the same for the 2022-2023 Academic Year.

Major Code: 0781

Click here to view the Suggested Plan of Study (p. 3)

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

General Education Foundations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Education Foundations</th>
<th>3-6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 101 - Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 102 &amp; ENGL 103 - Composition, Rhetoric, and Research</td>
<td>3-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ENGL 103 - Accelerated Academic Writing</td>
<td>3-6</td>
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F2A/F2B - Science & Technology

<table>
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<tr>
<th>4-6</th>
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F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning

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<th>3-4</th>
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F4 - Society & Connections

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<tr>
<th>3</th>
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F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past

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<th>3</th>
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F6 - The Arts & Creativity

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F7 - Global Studies & Diversity

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</table>
Curriculum Requirements

University Requirements

Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources Program Requirements

Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources Major Requirements

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.
Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources Major Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RPTR 142</td>
<td>Introduction to Recreation, Parks and Tourism</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPTR 145</td>
<td>Recreation Services for Special Populations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPTR 239</td>
<td>Sustainable Tourism Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPTR 242</td>
<td>Environmental and Cultural Interpretation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPTR 335</td>
<td>Management in Recreation, Parks and Tourism Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPTR 365</td>
<td>Planning and Design in Recreation, Parks and Tourism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPTR 433</td>
<td>Recreation Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPTR 450</td>
<td>Social Research Methods in Natural Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPTR 485</td>
<td>Professional Development Seminar (Capstone Experience)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPTR 491</td>
<td>Professional Field Experience</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Area of Emphasis

- Adventure Recreation
- Park and Outdoor Recreation
- Sustainable Tourism

Total Hours: 42

* At the end of the junior year, after completing the above required RPTR courses (noted with the *), students must complete an approved 400-hour internship of not less than eight weeks with a recreation, parks, or tourism agency. Most recreation internships occur during the summer months.

† AGEE 421 and RPTR 242 fulfill the Writing and Communication Skills requirement.

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 101 (GEF 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>WMAN 150 (GEF 7)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 101 &amp; BIOL 103 (GEF 2)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>PSYC 101 (GEF 4)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPTR 142</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>WDSC 100 (GEF 5)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOR 140 (GEF 8)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>RPTR 242</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 124 (or higher: GEF 3)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 102 (GEF 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANRD 191</td>
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Second Year

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<td>Select one of the following (GEF 8):</td>
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<td>FOR 240</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 105 &amp; BIOL 106</td>
<td></td>
<td>STAT 211 (GEF 8)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 111 &amp; 111L</td>
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<td>WVUE 270</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOR 205</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>RPTR Emphasis Course</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPTR 239</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>RPTR 145</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARE 220</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>RPTR 365</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMAN 212</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>GEF 6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>RPTR 491</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Areas of Emphasis

- Adventure Recreation (p. 4)
- Park and Outdoor Recreation (p. 4)
- Sustainable Tourism (p. 4)

ADVENTURE RECREATION AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

RPTR 251  Leadership in Experiential Education  3
RPTR 150  Backcountry Living Skills  3
RPTR 325  Challenge Course Facilitation  3
or RPTR 326  Canopy Tour Facilitation  3
RPTR 200-400 Level Elective  3
(Additional Electives are chosen after consultation with your advisor.)

Total Hours  12

PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

RPTR 251  Leadership in Experiential Education  3
RPTR 365  Planning and Design in Recreation, Parks and Tourism  3
FMAN 423  Urban Forest Management  3
RPTR 200-400 Level Electives  3
(Additional Electives are chosen after consultation with your advisor.)

Total Hours  12

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

ARE 411  Rural Economic Development  3
or GEOG 209  Global Justice  3
BCOR 350  Principles of Marketing  3
RPTR 472  Tourism System and Destination Management  3
RPTR 200-400 Level Elective  3
(Additional Electives are chosen after consultation with your advisor.)

Total Hours  12

Major Learning Outcomes

RECREATION, PARKS, AND TOURISM

Students graduating from the RPTR program shall be able to:
1. Demonstrate entry-level knowledge about operations and strategic management, planning, & policy related to parks, recreation, tourism, natural resources and/or related professions.
   - 1.1 Current status and trends of parks, recreation, and tourism industries
   - 1.2 The challenges with and prospects for parks, recreation, and tourism industries
   - 1.3 Tools, methods, and techniques in parks, recreation, and tourism research and practice

2. Design, implement, and evaluate services that facilitate various outdoor recreation and tourism experiences and opportunities.
   - 2.1 Natural and cultural interpretation
   - 2.2 Inclusive recreation
   - 2.3 Trail and park design
   - 2.4 Destination management and marketing
   - 2.5 Outdoor education learning

3. Apply classroom knowledge to professional recreation and tourism settings through fieldwork, certification, service learning, practicum, and internship experiences.
   - 3.1 Hand-on experience through field trips to recreation areas and tourism destinations
   - 3.2 Wilderness living skills
   - 3.3 Challenge course and canopy tour
   - 3.4 Internship requirement nationwide

4. Describe and apply comprehensive natural resource management principles and strategies (from both ecological and social sciences) by analyzing natural resource recreation and tourism management problems and policy.
   - 4.1 Human dimensions in natural resource management
   - 4.2 Sustainability theory and principles
   - 4.3 System view and strategies
   - 4.4 Stakeholder/collaboration theory and principles

5. Strategically apply the scientific method to improve the management and planning of recreation and tourism areas and organizations.
   - 5.1 GIS application in recreation and tourism
   - 5.2 Social research methods in parks and recreation
   - 5.3 Recreation planning and park design

6. Communicate effectively to enhance the management and planning of recreation and tourism programs, areas and organizations.
   - 6.1 Communication skills in parks, recreation, and tourism settings
   - 6.2 Interpersonal abilities

RPTR 140. Adventure West Virginia. 3 Hours.
This course provides incoming WVU freshmen with the information and tools helpful for a successful transition from high school to college through a field-based, experiential curriculum and classroom sessions. Significant attention is given to critical thought and reflection on oneself, relationships, and place in society.

RPTR 140A. Adventure West Virginia. 3 Hours.
This course provides incoming WVU freshman with the information and tools helpful for a successful transition from high school to college through a field-based, experiential curriculum.

RPTR 142. Introduction to Recreation, Parks and Tourism. 2 Hours.
Recreation, parks and tourism philosophy, environments, agency contexts, historical antecedents, service delivery systems, special settings and populations, leadership programs and professional challenges. 30 hour, field placement with local recreation, park or tourism agency.

RPTR 145. Recreation Services for Special Populations. 3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Introductory analysis of current therapeutic recreation and park services to include members of special populations; familiarization with planning for the conduct of such services.

RPTR 148. Wilderness First Responder. 3 Hours.
PR: Consent. This course provides training necessary to become certified in dealing with various aspects and levels of outdoor/wilderness crises for forestry, recreation, or any outdoor professionals. (Grading will be pass/fail.).

RPTR 150. Backcountry Living Skills. 1.3 Hour.
PR: Consent. The purpose of this course is to develop and refine the skills necessary to camp and travel in the outdoors.

RPTR 191. First-Year Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
Engages students in active learning strategies that enable effective transition to college life at WVU. Students will explore school, college and university programs, policies and services relevant to academic success. Provides active learning activities that enable effective transition to the academic environment. Students examine school, college and university programs, policies and services.
RPTR 225. Foundations of Facilitation. 1 Hour.
This course examines the foundations to effective group facilitation and provides practical experience putting facilitation techniques to use with ground-based initiatives and low challenge course elements.

RPTR 239. Sustainable Tourism Development. 3 Hours.
This course will introduce students to the phenomenon and significance of global tourism and teach them how to apply tourism principles to support community economic development.

RPTR 242. Environmental and Cultural Interpretation. 3 Hours.
This course is about people, communication and natural resource management. It focuses on theory and application of communication methods for natural resource settings and topics, including communication of technical information to lay publics.

RPTR 249. GIS in Recreation and Tourism. 3 Hours.
Covers GIS applications in the temporal and spatial complexities of recreation and tourism.

RPTR 251. Leadership in Experiential Education. 3 Hours.
This course focuses on elements of leadership in outdoor and experimental education and provides students with hands-on learning opportunities.

RPTR 255. Adventure New Zealand: Wilderness Leadership in an International Context. 6 Hours.
This course will provide a theoretical and applied study of wilderness leadership in an international context. Participants will study relevant leadership theory, critical wilderness skills, and international programming concepts. The program will culminate in a student led final in which the instructors step back to observe the students put their new knowledge and skills to the test.

RPTR 263. Program Planning in Recreation, Parks and Tourism. 3 Hours.
PR: RPTR major or consent. Fundamentals of general program planning, needs, facilities, age groups, local customs, climatic factor, etc.; settings such as parks, playgrounds, indoor centers, playing fields, hospitals, voluntary agencies, industrial settings, and campuses.

RPTR 293. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

RPTR 325. Challenge Course Facilitation. 3 Hours.
This course involves learning the background philosophies, theories, and structures that have led to development of the challenge course industry. Students will also learn the basic skill necessary to safely facilitate a group.

RPTR 326. Canopy Tour Facilitation. 3 Hours.
Exposes the student to the skills and knowledge necessary to act as a canopy tour guide including: risk management, operations, technique, facilitation, and an overview of the industry. Successful completion of the course will qualify the student to take the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) Level 1 Practitioner Certification Exam.

RPTR 335. Management in Recreation, Parks and Tourism Organizations. 3 Hours.
PR or CONC: RPTR 352. The purpose of this course is to provide students of all majors with an understanding of both theory and practical applications of concepts surrounding sustainable tourism development in the South Pacific.

RPTR 351. Sustainable Tourism. 3 Hours.
PR or CONC: RPTR 352. The purpose of this course is to provide students of all majors with an understanding of both theory and practical applications of concepts surrounding sustainable tourism development in the South Pacific.

RPTR 352. Marine Ecotourism. 3 Hours.
PR or CONC: RPTR 351. This course will focus on developing interpretation and information strategies in tourism to protect and conserve marine ecosystems.

RPTR 353. Sustainable Tourism in Patagonia. 3 Hours.
PR: RPTR 150; Winter Break excursion in Patagonia, Chile. This course will provide a theoretical and applied study of sustainable tourism and the ecosystems and culture of the Aysen region of Patagonian Chile. Alongside local guides and entrepreneurs, students will explore nature-based tourism and investigate how this tourism can be an agent of sustainable development. Student will investigate contemporary controversial issues in Chilean Patagonia.

RPTR 365. Planning and Design in Recreation, Parks and Tourism. 3 Hours.
PR: RPTR major or consent. Study of planning and design concepts, standards and guidelines, use continuum, grants-in-aid, and planning of selected areas and facilities: parks, pools, centers and recreation areas.

RPTR 380. Expedition Planning and Education in the Outdoors. 3 Hours.
PR: RPTR 251 with a minimum grade of C- or consent. This course is intended to examine and practice principles of expedition planning and education in outdoor and experiential settings. The course will focus on conceptualization, design, and implementation of two backcountry experiences, and students will practice curriculum development and educational strategies through guided lesson planning and facilitation.

RPTR 433. Recreation Resource Management. 3 Hours.
An analysis of land management agencies and major legislation concerned with recreation resource management; review, develop, and apply recreation resource and visitor use management plans.
RPTR 434. Wilderness in American Society. 3 Hours.
PR: RPTR 433 or consent. A seminar examining political, sociological, and environmental aspects of American wilderness. A discussion on articles concerning wilderness preservation, management, and aesthetics.

RPTR 436. Sustainable Trails: Engagement. 3 Hours.
Develop management plans, incorporate interpretive signage, and activate greenspace and public trails with civic engagement while planning for post-construction maintenance. Cross listed with RPTR 536 (for graduate students).

RPTR 442. Advanced Interpretive Techniques. 3 Hours.
PR: RPTR 242 or consent and junior standing. This is an advanced course on the development of interpretive programs that reflect the historical, cultural, and natural resources of an area. The course employs a project-based approach. Students will develop and critique both personal and non-personal products.

RPTR 448. Ecotourism Development. 3 Hours.
Covers applied approaches to the development and operation of nature-based tourism businesses. Sustainable tourism principles, business planning, marketing strategies, and management issues are thoroughly examined.

RPTR 450. Social Research Methods in Natural Resource Management. 3 Hours.
Social research methods in natural resource management with concentration on problem identification and solving. Data collection methods and applications specific to natural resource management social settings will be studied.

RPTR 472. Tourism System and Destination Management. 3 Hours.
Analysis of the demand and supply components of the tourism system and identification of destination management approaches to manage this tourism system in-order to build and maintain a competitive and sustainable destination.

RPTR 485. Professional Development Seminar. 1 Hour.
This course is a capstone preplanning course for the professional internship program. The course emphasizes professional development and career planning.

RPTR 490. Teaching Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Teaching practice as a tutor or assistant.

RPTR 491. Professional Field Experience. 1-18 Hours.
PR: Consent. (May be repeated up to a maximum of 18 hours.) Prearranged experiential learning program, to be planned, supervised, and evaluated for credit by faculty and field supervisors. Involves temporary placement with public or private enterprise for professional competence development.

RPTR 493. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

RPTR 494. Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Presentation and discussion of topics of mutual concern to students and faculty.

RPTR 495. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

RPTR 496. Senior Thesis. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent.

RPTR 498. Honors. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Students in Honors Program and consent by the honors director. Independent reading, study or research.