

RECREATION, PARK, AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT, B.S. (HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT)

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park, World Campus

Program Description

The program prepares students for supervisory and administrative positions with park systems, environmental centers, commercial recreation and tourism agencies, golf courses, hospitals and assisted living facilities, private voluntary agencies, schools and colleges, and other commercial, nonprofit, and public organizations that provide recreation and leisure services. The program combines a broad educational foundation with specific courses designed to accommodate career interests in recreation, park, and tourism management. The program helps students gain the theoretical, managerial, technical, and experiential skills they need to become the next generation of leaders in the field. Additionally, students obtain real-world experience through our internship experiences.

Four (4) options are offered:

Commercial Recreation and Tourism Management Option

Available at the following campuses: Abington, Greater Allegheny, University Park, World Campus

This option focuses on management in the private/commercial, non-profit, and public sectors of recreation/leisure services. The private/commercial focus will be of interest to students seeking careers in a variety of commercial settings such as resorts; theme parks, convention centers; sports and fitness facilities, including arenas and stadiums; tourism promotion/planning agencies; and employee recreation departments within corporations. This focus will also appeal to students wishing to become entrepreneurs.

Community Recreation Management Option

Available at the following campuses: Abington, Greater Allegheny, University Park, World Campus

For those interested in the community, public, or non-profit sectors for positions within municipal, state, and federal government agencies; recreation divisions of the armed services; YMCA agencies; United Way agencies; scouting organizations; university-affiliated units such as student unions, intramural and alumni services; and other non-profit organizations.

Professional Golf Management Option

Available at the following campuses: University Park

Accredited by the Professional Golfers' Association of America, the Professional Golf Management Option prepares students for careers in the golf industry. Students will be prepared to assess leadership and management principles including customer service, interpersonal skills, business communication, conflict resolution, time management, negotiating, project management, marketing, and community relations. In addition to the core curriculum, the program has a strong business focus and is drawn from several nationally recognized academic disciplines on campus.

Outdoor Recreation Management Option

Available at the following campuses: University Park

This option prepare students for careers in Park Management and Environmental Interpretation (PMEI), Adventure Recreation, or in both fields. The Adventure Recreation pathway emphasizes outdoor experiential leadership, including wilderness experiences and personal development. The PMEI pathway focuses on natural and cultural history environmental interpretation and education and the social science of conservation. The third pathway provides a flexible route for students to combine parts of the Adventure Recreation and PMEI pathways to create a meaningful personalized set of courses that could include study abroad experiences and prepare students for international contexts of recreation management. The Outdoor Recreation Management option is of interest to students seeking employment in a variety of outdoor recreation and park settings (local, state, and national from urban to wilderness) offering outdoor activities and personal development to the public.

What is Recreation, Park and Tourism Management?

Recreation, Park and Tourism Management students learn how to manage and lead in a variety of organizations to help humans derive benefits from leisure activities. Students learn about a disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives to better understand the natural, psychological, social, economic, political and cultural systems that influence human behavior in the context of recreation, park and tourism. Core business and management skills are applied to the types of organizations in the recreation, park and tourism sectors. This approach enables students to address issues of human well-being and sustainable development in leading and managing these organizations. Our mission is to transform human health and well-being through engaging people in recreation, park, tourism and leisure activities.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT RECREATION, PARK, AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT (<https://hhd.psu.edu/rptm>)

You Might Like This Program If...

- You like working with people in a hands-on learning environment that involves recreation, parks, sustainability and leisure.
- You enjoy business, management or entrepreneurship and a career setting focused on the outdoors, entertainment, sports, fitness, or events.
- You like building community through organizing recreation programs for young people, families, those in the military or older persons.
- You enjoy tourism, visiting new places, meeting new people, and helping others travel and learn about other cultures.