Therapeutic Recreation - Master of Science

The Master of Science in Therapeutic Recreation is a comprehensive program of study designed to prepare graduates for careers in the multifaceted field of therapeutic recreation. Our dual track curriculum serves two kinds of the students, the certified therapeutic recreation specialist (CTRS) seeking advanced training in therapeutic recreation as well as the student who wants to enter the therapeutic recreation profession by completing his or her masters degree. All students completing a masters at UW-L meet all criteria for sitting for the national therapeutic recreation examination.

Please visit the website that introduces you to the graduate Therapeutic Recreation Program, our graduate faculty, and the opportunities at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

www.uwlax.edu/grad/therapeutic-recreation/

For more information please contact:

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kevans@uwlax.edu
608.785.8210

Thank you for your interest.

"The program is excellent and prepares you for working in any population as a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. The professors are very knowledgeable and often went above and beyond to help me."

Angelica Granger, class of 2009

Program requirements

Admission

Students without a previous background in therapeutic recreation, as well as those who are certification eligible as a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification, will be admitted into the program after fulfilling university graduate school admission requirements. Students without backgrounds in therapeutic recreation will only be admitted in the Fall semester. Deficiencies will be determined based on the student's educational background and work experience.

There are minimum undergraduate prerequisite course and competency requirements for admission to the Master of Science degree program in therapeutic recreation.

Prerequisite courses (or equivalent knowledge):

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESS 205</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology for Exercise Science I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 204</td>
<td>Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 212</td>
<td>Lifespan Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 145</td>
<td>Elementary Statistics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The above courses may be taken at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse during the first two semesters of the graduate program.

Prerequisite competency:

Knowledge of and experience with a disability group in a therapeutic recreation setting (minimum 50 documented hours of acceptable experience).

National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification exam

To become eligible to sit for the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (http://nctrc.org) (NCTRC) exam through the professional academic path, a total of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units of supportive course work must be successfully completed with at least three units in the content of abnormal psychology, three units in the content of anatomy and physiology, and three units in the content area of human growth and development across the lifespan. The remaining semester units or quarter units of course work must be fulfilled in the content of "human services" as defined by NCTRC (human services is defined to include courses supportive to the practice of therapeutic recreation such as: psychology, sociology, related biological/physical sciences, adaptive physical education, special education, education, ethics and other disciplines of study supportive to the practice of therapeutic recreation). Students must fulfill the most current NCTRC requirements for certification eligibility. Fulfilling the most recent NCTRC requirements for eligibility is the responsibility of the student.

Curriculum

(30-36 credits)

Upon admission, the student will be classified into one of two groups based upon previous academic background, certification status, and professional experience in the field of therapeutic recreation. The student will be classified either as a

- Student without a previous background in therapeutic recreation or
- Student with a previous background (certification eligible) in therapeutic recreation.

Program of study for a student with a background (certification eligible) in therapeutic recreation:

The program of study involves a minimum of 30 credits. A program of study includes the required courses, one of two capstone experiences, and electives. The program of study will be jointly developed by the student and the Therapeutic Recreation Program Director.

Required courses (15 credits):

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REC 701</td>
<td>Philosophical Foundations of Leisure, Play and Recreation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REC 711</td>
<td>Management of Leisure Services Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REC 720</td>
<td>Research Methods for Recreation, Parks, and Leisure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTH 593</td>
<td>Therapeutic Recreation Trends and Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTH 730</td>
<td>Advanced Clinical Aspects/Therapeutic Recreation</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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Total Credits 15

Capstone Experience:

Students with a therapeutic recreation background must select one of two research options as the capstone experience to their graduate program. The options are:
Degree requirements

Graduate degree requirements

After being admitted to the program of one's choice, candidates for a graduate degree must:

1. Complete any preliminary course work and deficiencies.
2. Complete all courses and other program requirements, including residence requirements prescribed for the degree desired in the respective school or college within a seven-year period from the date of initial enrollment.
3. Earn a minimum of 30 credits for a master's degree; 54 credits for a doctorate or post-master's degree. Earn at least one-half of the minimum number of credits required in the program in graduate-only level courses (700, 800, 900, and non-slash 600 level courses).
4. Earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00.
5. Satisfy dissertation, thesis, seminar paper, terminal/graduate projects and internships, or comprehensive examination, where applicable. A dissertation or thesis approved by the committee must be submitted to the Director of Graduate Studies for approval at least two weeks before commencement. Ordinarily, a seminar paper or project report does not have to be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. However, if the seminar paper or project report is to be archived in Murphy Library, the student must follow the same rules as they apply to the dissertation/thesis requiring approval from the Director of Graduate Studies. For further research/dissertation/thesis guidelines (https://www.uwlax.edu/graduate-studies), see the Office of Graduate Studies.
6. File a completed “Intent to Graduate” form online via the WINGS Student Center immediately following registration for the final semester or summer term in residence. December graduates and winter intersession should file by May 1. May and summer graduates should file by December 1.
7. Pay the graduation fee and remove all other indebtedness to the university. Payment of graduation fees does not imply readiness for graduation and does not take the place of applying for graduation.
8. Complete all requirements within 30 days after the official ending date of a term in order for a degree to be awarded for that term. (See #5 above for separate deadline for written capstone experience.)