Recreation Management and Therapeutic Recreation Department (REC/RTH)

College of Science and Health
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www.uwlax.edu/rec-management-and-therapeutic-rec

Recreation Management Program (REC)
The Recreation Management Program at UW-La Crosse is the only nationally accredited recreation management program in the University of Wisconsin System. The mission of the program is to train students in the skills of the recreation profession and instill an appreciation of the vital role of leisure in people’s lives. An experiential approach to our teaching makes students uniquely competitive in the recreation job market and provides an excellent transition into the recreation profession.

The program serves students interested in a wide range of professional recreation careers. Four emphasis areas (tourism, community-based recreation, outdoor recreation, and generalist) provide the opportunity to create a personalized program of study. Graduates of the recreation management program find employment in government agencies, YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, camps, environmental education, military bases, tourism enterprises including resorts, and other for-profit recreation organizations ranging from retail operations to direct service providers.

Therapeutic Recreation Program (RTH)
The Therapeutic Recreation Program at UW-La Crosse prepares majors eligible to become Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists (CTRS) who improve functioning, facilitate leisure education, and promote inclusive recreation participation for people of all abilities and their families and caregivers. We advocate a strengths-approach to helping people reach dreams and goals for healthy functioning, well-being, and satisfying leisure. This health and human service profession is designated as “recreational therapy” in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook.

Students learn to assess, plan, implement, evaluate, and document therapeutic recreation programs using recreation interventions such as physical activity, expressive arts, horticulture, games, music, animal-assisted therapy, nature-based activities, adventure, stress management, and play. These goal-directed programs help vulnerable individuals and groups with disabling conditions, and acute and chronic health conditions to learn, adapt, and grow through engaging in meaningful recreation and leisure pursuits.

Recreation programs transfer policy
Students transferring into recreation management programs must have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or higher at the time of transfer. Students transferring into therapeutic recreation must have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or higher at the time of transfer.

General education writing emphasis
This department incorporates a significant amount of writing through the required courses instead of identifying particular courses as writing emphasis courses. Students who complete a major in this department will fulfill the general education writing emphasis requirement (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/generaleducation/#generaleducationrequirementstext).

2018-19 Faculty/Staff
The following is the department’s faculty and staff as of the publication date of this catalog. This list will not be updated again until the next catalog is published in June.

Associate Professor
Laurie Harmon, Ph.D., Department Chair
Kate Evans, Ph.D.
Kari Kensinger, Ph.D.
Gretchen Newhouse, Ph.D.
Nancy Richeson, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
Namyun Kil, Ph.D.
Brian Kumm-Schaley, Ph.D.
Daniel Plunkett, Ph.D.

Senior Lecturer
Daniel Widuch, M.S.

Lecturer
Lisa Savarese, M.S.
Michelle Rhoades, M.S.

Associate Lecturer
Tara Delong, M.S.
Lindsey Kirschbaum, M.S.

Administrative Support
Janet Craig, Department Associate
Maureen Nelson

Majors
• Recreation management major: community-based recreation emphasis - BS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/recreationmanagement/recreationmanagement-community-based)
• Recreation management major: generalist emphasis - BS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/recreationmanagement/recreationmanagement-generalist)

• Recreation management major: outdoor recreation emphasis - BS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/recreationmanagement/recreationmanagement-outdoorrecreation)

• Recreation management major: tourism emphasis - BS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/recreationmanagement/recreationmanagement-tourism)

• Therapeutic recreation major - BS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/recreationmanagement/therapeuticrecreationmajor)

• Dual degree in therapeutic recreation BS and MS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/recreationmanagement/dual-degree-therapeutic-recreation-bs-ms)

Minors

• Recreation management minor (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/recreationmanagement/recreationmanagementminor)

• Recreation management minor for therapeutic recreation majors (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/recreationmanagement/recreationmanagementminorfortherapeuticrecreation)

• Inclusive recreation minor (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/recreationmanagement/inclusiverecreationminor)