

The Recreation & Leisure Studies Graduate Program

Thank you for your interest in the Recreation & Leisure Studies program at University of Tennessee. We are part of the Department of Exercise, Sport, and Leisure Studies in the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences on the flagship campus at Knoxville, Tennessee's oldest and largest public university, a land-grant institution that holds the Carnegie Foundation doctoral/research-extensive classification.

Degrees Available

- M.S. in Recreation Administration
- Master of Public Administration- Recreation Administration Minor
- M.S. in Therapeutic Recreation

Focus of the Programs

Recreation Administration

The professional discipline of Recreation and Leisure Studies (RLS) prepares students for management and leadership positions in many public, quasi-public, non-profit and private recreation and leisure related enterprises. The concentration provides two excellent options for students.

▪ **Option 1: M.S. in Recreation Administration**

Leisure is central to balancing physical and mental health and sustaining economic growth. Some sectors of the leisure industry have outperformed the market as a whole and are positioned to flourish as the economy becomes more leisure service-oriented. The core curriculum, designed for the generalist, provides an understanding of the role and impact of leisure in achieving and sustaining socio-economic growth and political order in an increasingly culturally diverse society.

A minimum of 33 semester hours for the thesis option and 36 semester hours for the non-thesis option are required for the M.S. For the non-thesis option, 30 semester hours of coursework and a 6 credit hour, competency-based, professional internship are required. Students must also pass a final, comprehensive written examination to complete the program of study. Prospective students who have not taken RLS 310 Development and Evaluation of Recreation and Leisure Programs and 430 Organization and Administration of Leisure Services or their equivalents during undergraduate study must complete the courses in addition to the M.S. degree course requirements.

▪ **Option 2: Master of Public Administration- Recreation Administration Minor**

The MPA is a professional degree program designed to prepare men and women to assume responsible positions in the public service through a program of study that integrates the theory and practice of public administration. The MPA curriculum at the University of Tennessee aspires to produce graduates who are literate in the field of public administration, have the skills to be effective managers of organizational resources, and possess the analytical abilities to be creative problem-solvers.

A minimum of 39 semester hours is required for the M.P.A degree. A 24 hour core curriculum, a 9 hour specialized track in Recreation and Leisure Studies and a 6 hour internship comprise the basic requirements. Students must also pass a final, comprehensive written examination in public administration after all course work has been completed.

Interested students must apply directly to the MPA program and meet all of the necessary requirements for admission. For additional information on the MPA program visit <http://web.utk.edu/~polisci/mpa.htm>.

Therapeutic Recreation

An M.S. in Therapeutic Recreation concentration prepares students for employment in management and leadership positions with agencies that deliver health care services. Students are successful in securing employment in psychiatric institutions, in physical rehabilitation units, in drug and alcohol treatment centers, and in community based programs, long-term care facilities, outdoor and school-based programs and children's programs. Graduates fulfill the eligibility requirements for the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC).

In addition, we require our students be eligible for national certification and this means students must have courses in the following areas (either in their bachelor's or master's program):

- Human Development (birth – death)
- Abnormal Psychology
- Human Anatomy
- Human Physiology

Also, students who got their undergraduate degree in other disciplines must take two 'make up courses' which are generally Recreation & Leisure Studies 310 and either Recreation & Leisure Studies 410 or 430.

Recreation & Leisure Faculty & Staff

Dr. Gene Hayes

Gene A. Hayes is a full professor in the Department of Exercise, Sport, and Leisure Studies and serves as the "point person" for the Recreation and Leisure Studies

program. Dr. Hayes received an AA degree in California and his BS degree from Fresno State University in Recreation Administration. He worked for the Fresno Parks and Recreation Department and for the State Department of Mental Health as a Recreation Therapist for two state mental hospitals in California before receiving a scholarship to attend the University of North Carolina to study for his Master's degree in Therapeutic Recreation. While at Chapel Hill, he worked as a recreation therapist at the UNC University Hospital. He received a scholarship to attend Columbia University Teachers College in New York City to begin studying toward his doctoral degree in Therapeutic Recreation. While in New York City, he worked as a Recreation Therapist at the Fountain House Foundation in mid-town Manhattan. Later, he moved to Parsons, Kansas and directed the recreation therapy part of a federal grant at the Parsons State Hospital and Training Center and also taught part-time at Kansas State College in Pittsburg, Kansas. Dr. Hayes moved to Denton, Texas and began his full time teaching career in Therapeutic Recreation at the Texas Woman's University. While teaching there, he completed his Ph. D. at North Texas State University. He has also taught at Fresno State University, The University of Iowa, The University of Waterloo in Canada, Virginia Tech, and has been at the University of Tennessee since 1984. He has published over 50 articles, given more than 150 professional presentations at the local, state, regional, national, and international levels. He has also successfully written 2.0 million dollars in federal and state grants. His current interests and funded activities include: working with therapeutic recreation students in developing and conducting outdoor education/recreation programs for children with disabilities, placing students in public school special education classrooms to conduct therapeutic recreation programs, and.... Another of his passions is working with his companion dog, Lanai, in rehab centers, hospitals, nursing homes, classrooms, and camps for children with disabilities.

Dr. Steven Waller

Steven advises and mentors undergraduate and graduate students in the recreation and leisure administration portion of the Recreation and Leisure Studies program. He teaches courses in administration, programming and evaluation, facility development and maintenance, trends and issues, philosophy and concepts of recreation and leisure, fiscal policies, management and operations, and special topics in recreation and leisure. Dr. Waller served as an executive level manager in parks and recreation agencies in the Midwest for more than two decades.

Dr. Waller's research foci include: public and non-profit agency management; recreation and community development; and theology, leisure and religion.

Dr. Waller received his A.A. in Pre-Social Work, B. S. degrees in Municipal Recreation Administration and Rehabilitative Recreation from Ferris State University, and an M.A. in Recreation and Park Administration from Central Michigan University. Steven also completed all coursework requirements for the M.P.A. degree while attending the University of Michigan. He earned his Ph.D. from Michigan State University in Parks and Recreation Administration. Additionally,

Steven holds an M. Div. with emphases in Theology and Pastoral Care and Counseling from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and a D. Min. in Pastoral Care and Counseling from United Theological Seminary.

Dr. Waller currently serves as a recreation and leisure studies text book reviewer and is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy*. He has also served as a guest reviewer for the *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*.

Steven is also an active member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the Tennessee and Ohio Park and Recreation Associations, the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), the Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA), the Christian Society for Kinesiology and Leisure Studies (CSKLS) and the Association of Church Sport and Recreation Ministers (CSRSM).

Angela Wozencroft, Ph.D.

Angela Wozencroft is an assistant professor in the Department of Exercise, Sport, and Leisure Studies. Dr. Wozencroft received her B. A. in Sociology from the University of Western Ontario. She then completed a post graduate program in Gerontology at The University of Waterloo and one in Therapeutic Recreation at Georgian College. Angela worked for two years as an activities coordinator and supervisor at The Seniors Life Enhancement Center, an adult day program for older adults with physical and cognitive impairments. Later, she moved to Knoxville, TN to complete her Master's degree in Recreation and Leisure studies with an emphasis in Therapeutic Recreation. She earned her Ph. D from Clemson University in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management also with an emphasis in Therapeutic Recreation.

Dr. Wozencroft's research foci consist of: older adults (cognitive/physical disabilities), adventure challenge courses, children with multiple disabilities, at-risk youth/delinquency, therapeutic recreation in public schools, therapeutic camping, and the Theory of Self-Determination. Angela is an active member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), specifically the National Therapeutic Recreation Society (NTRS), and the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA). She is also a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS).

Larry Y. Brown, M.S.

Larry Y. Brown, M.S., C.T.R.S., C.A.S., is the Recreation and Leisure Studies program Practicum/Internship Coordinator. Mr. Brown received his bachelor's from the University of Tennessee in 1972, with a concentration in Recreation and then followed up with a Master's degree in Therapeutic Recreation in 1985. Larry then worked as an Activity Therapy Director with various healthcare companies as a certified therapeutic recreation specialist. He specialized in developing experiential based therapeutic recreation programs for chemical dependent and treatment resistant adolescence. Mr. Brown is certified as an addiction specialist, reregistered as a therapeutic crisis intervention instructor, as well as holding diploma status

from Grandmaster William C.C. Chen's tai chi institute in New York City. He has also co-authored a book, "The Brown Book: A Tai Chi Glossary and Lab Manual". Mr. Brown has given over 100 presentations locally, nationally and internationally in the areas of therapeutic recreation program design, adventure based counseling techniques and activities, therapeutic crisis intervention in specific populations and using tai chi as a therapeutic modality. He was awarded the Anne James award for best presentation at the Southeast Therapeutic Recreation Symposium in 1995. Mr. Brown also teaches tai chi for the university's physical education training program as well and has a private tai chi school called Therapeutic Tai Chi Chuan Institute that helps various populations in the community.

How to Apply

The application process has two parts. You must apply to the Department of Exercise, Sport, & Leisure Studies and the University of Tennessee Graduate School.

You apply to the Department through Margy Wirtz, our Admissions Coordinator. You should submit the following (links to the forms are available on our website):

- The ESLS Departmental Application, including the Departmental Assistantship Application if you want to be considered for a teaching assistantship in our Physical Education Activity Program (PEAP)
- Your Resume
- Three Ratings Forms (University of Tennessee's recommendation forms)—Two of these should be completed for you by professors who are familiar with your work and the third can be completed by either an academic or an employment reference.

You must also apply to the University of Tennessee Graduate School through the Office of Graduate and International Admissions. This involves the submission of the following:

- The Graduate Application for Admissions
- \$35 application fee
- Official academic transcripts sent directly from all your post-secondary academic institutions
- GRE scores
- TOEFL scores (Test of English as a Foreign Language; only required if you are not a native English speaker)
- Financial documentation (International Students only; contact the Graduate and International Admissions Office for more information)
- International Students have certain deadlines by which applications **must** be received and then the admissions process completed.

Who is admitted?

We will admit up to 20 MS students total from a pool of 30 applicants. Admissions decisions are made on a number of criteria:

- Candidates must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 or above in their undergraduate work to be considered (or at least in the senior year).

- We then look at the applicant's writing ability and answers to questions on our application form (areas of interest, for one) in determining people who might be a good fit for our program.
- Ratings forms (our version of letters of recommendation) are also considered.
- If the GRE is taken (we do not require it), we look for an analytical writing score of 4.0 or higher. We have no minimum score on the verbal and quantitative portions, but scoring at or above the 50th percentile would be considered a strong score.

Timeline and Deadlines

***Preferred entry is Fall each year, but Spring applicants can be considered. Contact Ms. Wirtz-Henry for deadlines.**

The Department/Degree Program

- Admissions are done on a rolling basis for M.S. students, so qualified applicants can be admitted as soon as **all application materials** (i.e., graduate school, application materials, application forms, ratings forms/reference letters, etc.) are in.
- **For priority consideration**, as well as consideration for departmental assistantships, all materials should be received in the department and submitted to the Graduate School by **February 1st**.
- **Only complete application files will be considered.** It is your responsibility to confirm that all your materials have been received. You should check with both the Graduate and International Admissions Office (<http://admissions.utk.edu/graduate/check.shtml>) **and** the Department of Exercise, Sport, & Leisure Studies Admissions Coordinator (Ms. Margy Wirtz-Henry, mwirtz@utk.edu, 865-974-7154). Your status with the Graduate Admissions Office does not necessarily reflect your status with the department until the admission decision has been made at the department level and communicated with Graduate Admissions.
- Applicants applying later can be considered for admission if there are still openings in the incoming class.

The University/Graduate Admissions

The Graduate School's admissions deadlines are later than those required by the department, and therefore, please use our February 1st deadline instead of those posted by the Graduate School and have all materials in to the Graduate School and the department by then.

IMPORTANT: The application process requires that students be accepted by both the Department/Degree Program and the University/Graduate School. **To ensure full consideration, both of these applications should be completed prior as soon as possible.** International applicants should begin the University/Graduate School admissions process several months prior to the February 1st deadline to allow adequate time for the graduate school application materials to be forwarded to the department for consideration along with the Department/Degree Program materials.

Funding

Graduate assistantships are the primary source of funding for graduate students at UT and are offered by academic departments and administrative offices of the university. An assistantship is a financial award to a graduate student for part-time work in teaching, administration, or research while pursuing an advanced degree. Appointments are normally on a one-fourth to one-half time basis, usually requiring 10 – 20 hours of service per week. The annual stipend is payable in either nine or twelve monthly installments. In addition to the stipend, Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTA), Graduate Teaching Associates (GTAssoc), Graduate Assistants (GA), and Graduate Research Assistants (GRA), with appointments on a one-fourth time basis or higher, are entitled to a waiver of maintenance fees and tuition for the period of appointment in accordance with university policy. These appointments also include a benefit of health insurance for the student.

While there is no central point of contact for information on GA positions in administrative offices around the university, some positions are filled periodically in college advising centers, admission offices, residence halls, and other service offices. When announced by the administrative office, openings for the assistantships may be found at <http://gradstudies.utk.edu/asstshipfunds.shtml>.

A very limited number of assistantships are available from our department. Very few master's students are funded through the department. However, there are many sources of funding and assistantships elsewhere on campus, such as through Men's Athletics, Women's Athletics, Rec Sports, Housing, Admissions, and other departments. We highly recommend that prospective students start early looking for funding sources. These areas should be contacted directly; this is not done through our department

Some helpful links related to funding:

<http://gradstudies.utk.edu/fellowships.shtml>
<http://gradstudies.utk.edu/asstshipfunds.shtml>
<http://web.utk.edu/~finaid/newpage/schol-info.html>
<http://admissions.utk.edu/graduate/costs.shtml>

Useful Links

- Recreation Administration Program <http://web.utk.edu/~sals/grad/rec.html>
- Therapeutic Recreation Program <http://web.utk.edu/~sals/grad/TR.html>
- Master's in Public Administration Program <http://web.utk.edu/~polisci/mpa.htm>.
- Graduate Admissions <http://admissions.utk.edu/graduate/>
- About Knoxville <http://www.tennessee.edu/knoxville/>
- Financial Aid <http://web.utk.edu/~finaid/>
- Student Residency Classification
<http://registrar.utk.edu/residency/residency.shtml>
- Center for International Education <http://web.utk.edu/~globe/>
- Admission Guide for International Students
<http://admissions.utk.edu/graduate/forms/intl.admission.guide.pdf>

Need More Information or Have Questions?

If you are interested in learning more about the application process or the program, please contact our Admissions Coordinator, Margy Wirtz-Henry, at (865) 974-7154 or mwirtz@utk.edu.

Thank you for your interest in the University of Tennessee. Best wishes in your search for a graduate program that meets your needs.