

Recreation and Leisure Studies Department: Graduate Program General Information Packet

Completing the Master of Science

Courses are offered in a sequential curriculum so the M.S. degree can be completed in three years when enrolling full time. Since graduate study is intensive and involves challenging reading, writing, and applied assignments, students generally enroll in 1 to 3 courses each semester (one core course, one option course, and/or an approved elective or exit-related course). This scheduling arrangement makes it possible for graduate students to work full- or part-time, to meet family and other responsibilities, or to gain desired experience while completing their degree. The three-year time period is extended as needed² to accommodate individual needs to complete prerequisites or keep up with other responsibilities.

Recreation and Leisure Studies courses (RECL) are offered during Fall and Spring semesters, generally weekly, but with some use of special weekend schedules when demand warrants. Some independent study courses and electives can be completed during summer and winter sessions. Up to six semester units of graduate study can be completed at other university campuses without special arrangement. The final one or two semesters are spent in independent study, following one of the two available exit patterns: thesis based on original research or graduate internship with original project and professional paper.

Early-Career Course of Study

M.S. in Recreation and Leisure Studies for professionals with fewer than 10 years of practical experience and for individuals seeking to enter professional practice.

Professional Core (12 units)

All students complete a common core of four courses to acquire broad, in-depth knowledge and develop critical thinking, writing, and research skills.

- ✍ RECL 200 -- Contemporary theories
- ✍ RECL 202 -- Research methods
- ✍ RECL 204 -- Seminar in planning and evaluation
- ✍ RECL 210 -- Readings in current research

Concentration Options (9 units)

Recreation Management

Graduates work in consulting, event-planning, non-profit agencies, community-development organizations, and government services and qualify to apply for state and/or national certification.

- ✍ RECL 203 -- Seminar in Recreation-Park Administration
- ✍ RECL 205 -- Financing and Marketing Leisure Services
- ✍ Approved elective (3 units, 200-level or, in special cases, a 100 level, course)

Therapeutic Recreation

Graduates work in consulting, private and public rehabilitation centers, community intervention agencies/programs, acute-care hospitals and clinics, and with associations advocating for the ill and disabled. TR students must satisfy general education requirements for state and national certification.

- ✍ RECL 211 -- Therapeutic Recreation Practices
- ✍ RECL 212 -- Facilitation and Intervention in Therapeutic Recreation
- ✍ RECL 213 -- Advanced Professional Therapeutic Recreation Practices

Exit Options (9 units)

Plan A (Thesis)

The purpose of plan A is to advance a special area of expertise by completing an original research investigation for knowledge leading to future field/market research, program development or evaluation, or doctoral study. Three or more elective units (200 and/or 100-level courses) combine with a one-unit preparation course and thesis research and defense to meet the 30-unit requirement.

- ✍ RECL 298-A (1 unit) -- Special Study: Research Proposal
- ✍ RECL 299 (1-4 units) -- Master's Thesis of Project
- ✍ Approved electives (3-7 units, 200 or 100-level courses)

Plan B (without Thesis)

Plan B is designed to increase the breadth and depth of professional knowledge and competence and to establish an area of individual expertise. Two options:

Internship and Project Paper

- ✍ RECL 298-C (1 unit) -- Special Study: Indiv. Investigation
- ✍ RECL 270 (5 units) -- Graduate Internship
- ✍ RECL 265 (3 units) -- Graduate Seminar (project)

Comprehensive Exam

- ✍ 298-B (1) - Special Study: Comp. Exam
- ✍ Approved elective sequence (8 units)

Advanced-Career Course of Study

M.S. in Recreation and Leisure Studies for professionals with 10 or more years of professional practice experience.

Professional Core (12 units required)

All students must complete a common core of four required courses which involve acquiring broad, in-depth knowledge and developing critical thinking, writing, and research skills.

- ✍ RECL 200 -- Contemporary theories
- ✍ RECL 202 -- Research methods
- ✍ RECL 204 -- Seminar in planning and evaluation
- ✍ RECL 210 -- Readings in current research

Approved Graduate-Level Electives (9 units required)

Elect courses in one major area of study such as public administration, environmental studies, therapeutic recreation, health care administration, human resource management, marketing, higher education.

Exit Plan (4-9 units)

Plan A (with Thesis)

The purpose of Plan A is to enable established career professionals who plan to engage in field/market research and program evaluation or plan to continue on with doctoral study in order to teach fulltime in higher education. A one-unit preparation course and thesis research and defense to meet the 30-unit graduation requirement.

- ✍ RECL 298-A (1 unit) -- Special Study: Research Proposal
- ✍ RECL 299 (1-4 units) -- Master's Thesis or Project
- ✍ Approved elective(s) (4-5 units)

Plan B (without thesis)

For the advanced career professional, this exit option is designed to meet individual needs for career reorientation, revitalization, innovation, or part-time teaching while extending the established area of professional expertise. Two options:

Professional Project

- ✍ RECL 298-C (1 unit) -- Special Study: Individual investigations in professional development
- ✍ RECL 265 and 270 (8 units total) -- Professional project: Complete a three-week professional study sabbatical (fulltime), or 13-weeks part time, to be followed by seminar in writing and successful publication of a focus article.

Comprehensive Exam

- ✍ RECL 298-B (1 unit) - Special Study: Comprehensive Exam
- ✍ RECL 265 (3 units) Graduate Seminar writing and successful publication of a focus article.
- ✍ Approved elective(s) (5 units)

Admission to the University

Applicants for graduate study must complete a two-part application process. Separate forms are provided to satisfy University application requirements and Department application requirements. No graduate entry exam is required, but all University and Department requirements for admission must be fully met. Applicants must submit materials directly to both the Office of Admissions AND to the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies. International students see graduate studies web site for specific entrance/acceptance requirements.

For California residents, general university application materials are available at any nearby community college or state university Admissions Office and may be picked up in person. When completing the University application, use the official code for this department 21031. Failure to file all materials requested and to enclose proper fee payment jeopardizes acceptance at SJSU. PLEASE NOTE: No part of the official University admission process is handled by the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies.

University Deadlines

Currently, deadlines for acceptance of University application materials for admission into the Recreation and Leisure Studies Graduate Program are:

Fall Semester

Due by May but applications are reviewed until August if space is available.

Spring semester

Due by November, applications reviewed until January if space is available.

International Students: Your applications generally require extra processing time. Early submission is advised.

University Eligibility

Minimal eligibility for graduate standing at this University is an acceptable Baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning with a 2.5 GPA overall and a 3.0 GPA for the last 60 semester units of study and acceptance for graduate study at the Department level.

Admission to the Department

Applicants for graduate study must complete a two-part application process. Separate forms are provided to satisfy University application requirements and Department application requirements. No graduate entry exam is required, but all University and Department requirements for admission must be fully met. Applicants must submit materials directly to both the Office of Admissions AND to the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies.

Applicants to the graduate program must complete the department Background Information Form, write a personal essay, and provide three appropriate letters of reference supporting capability to perform in a graduate program for professional advancement. Evidence must be provided of potential ability to develop expert knowledge and advanced skill needed to engage in the professional field of practice and/or continuing study in a doctoral program. Action cannot be taken on acceptance until University admission is completed and all Department materials are received and application requirements are met.

Requirements for Admission to Classified Standing

Applicants having met the general requirements for admission to the program with an earned B.S. or B.A. in recreation or a related field and satisfactory completion of an introductory statistics course are eligible to apply for acceptance with Classified standing. Applicants with earned degrees in a closely related field (ex. tourism) may request admission to Classified standing, dependent upon review of the prior course of study.

Requirements for Admission to Conditionally Classified Standing

Applicants having met the general requirements for admission to the program but who have not completed the statistics requirement or lack a prior degree in recreation or a closely related field/discipline, and have little or no professional recreation, park, or tourism experience, may apply for Conditionally Classified standing. A proposed program of study to correct knowledge deficiencies with undergraduate courses will be provided.

Requirements for Admission to Candidacy for the M.S. in Recreation

In addition to University requirements for admission to candidacy for the Master of Science degree in Recreation, students must have completed the following requirements. All deficiencies must be completed with a grade-point average of 3.0 (B) or higher or "credit" grades. To apply for candidacy, a minimum of 12 units of graduate study must be completed with a minimum grade-point average of 3.0, and the overall graduate GPA must be 3.0 or higher. The Approved Program application must be completed and approved by the Graduate Coordinator and the Office of Graduate Studies. Competency in written English must be demonstrated.

Important Information for students who do not have a degree in Recreation

1. To be classified graduate students studying in the Therapeutic Recreation Option, applicants must meet current national and state certification requirements in regard to undergraduate psychology, biology, human anatomy and physiology, and field experience.
2. Students without an undergraduate degree in recreation or hospitality and/or satisfactory quality and amount of experience in the professional field will be required to take selected undergraduate courses in addition to the M.S. course requirements. The usual number of prerequisite Recreation and Leisure Studies courses to be fulfilled by "crossover" students ranges from 3 to 4 courses. The courses are taken with advisement by the Graduate Coordinator.