

Leisure Studies (Therapeutic Recreation)



The program in leisure studies at Oklahoma State University prepares students for careers in **leisure service management** and **therapeutic recreation**. Both undergraduate options are accredited by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Students completing the programs are eligible to sit for national certification examinations.



Therapeutic Recreation is an allied health profession which utilizes specialized application of recreation and experiential activities or interventions that assist in treating or maintaining the health status, functional abilities, and ultimately, the quality of life for persons hospitalized with various diagnostic criteria and individuals with disabilities. The therapy provided through therapeutic recreations includes:

- Prescriptive therapy (*specific interventions related to diagnosis*)
- Education related to diagnosis or disability
- Community reintegration
- Adapted recreation
- Normalization activities



Possible Career Paths

Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists (CTRS) work as members of treatment teams in a variety of settings. The CTRS might choose employment in areas such as:

- Inpatient psychiatric treatment facilities
- Inpatient physical rehabilitation facilities
- Partial psychiatric hospitalization
- Residential psychiatric treatment facilities
- Public schools
- Intensive Care Units for children
- Long-term care facilities
- Private practice
- Correctional facilities
- Juvenile services
- Park and Recreation facilities
- Adult day centers
- Sheltered workshops
- Other treatment and non-treatment oriented agencies which provide services to individuals with disabilities.



Salary and Job Outlook

The median salary for a recreational therapist is \$36,940. The middle half of all recreational therapists made between \$26,780 and \$44,850 a year in 2006. The highest paid 10 percent made more than \$55,530 a year.

Employment of recreational therapists is expected to grow more slowly than the average for all occupations through the year 2016. They will serve a growing number of older people and people with disabilities. Nursing homes will provide more jobs, but hospitals will be providing fewer jobs as time goes by. Adult day care, assisted-living, social service, and physical and psychiatric rehabilitation sites will also provide a lot of jobs.

Learn more about **Therapeutic Recreation** by visiting these websites...

Job Description / Occupational Outlook Handbook
<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos082.htm>

American Therapeutic Recreation Association
<http://www.atra-tr.org>

National Therapeutic Recreation Society
www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentid-530

National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification
(for information about certification)
<http://www.nctrc.org>

Therapeutic Recreation Association of Oklahoma (TRAO)
<http://www.trao.net>

Therapeutic Recreation Directory
<http://www.recreationtherapy.com>
For a listing of internships go to "Connect" on the menu bar, then to "Internship"

Recreational Therapy Blog
<http://recreationtherapy.net/>

Medical Career Info (click on recreational therapist)
<http://www.medicalcareerinfo.com/>

Related Occupations

Job Description / Occupational Outlook Handbook

Occupational Therapist
<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos078.htm>

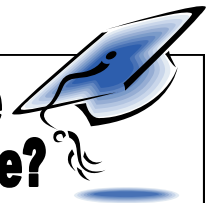
Physical Therapist
<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos080.htm>

Rehabilitation Counselors
<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos067.htm>

Teacher - Special Education
<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos070.htm>



Will you be marketable when you graduate?



Leisure Studies majors develop a variety of skills and knowledge through academic coursework and internships. Consider the following to add to your marketability.

Investigate and research your career path

As you choose activities and experiences to participate in during college consider what skills and abilities you might develop. To see a detailed list of what skills are need to be a recreational therapist visit the Occupational Information Network (O*NET®) website at

<http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/29-1125.00>

...or to explore other leisure services professions...

<http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/39-9032.00>

<http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/11-9151.00>

Get involved in clubs and organizations

Leisure Majors Club

This club hosts educational workshops, assists members with professional conference expenses, and provides opportunities to socialize.

Therapeutic Recreation Association of Oklahoma (TRAO)

Ask a faculty member about this organization and how you can become involved.

OSU Wheelchair Basketball / OSU Adaptive Sports

Contact the Adaptive Sports Coordinator, Stacy Pinney at 744-5510 in the C.R.C. for more information.

Gain relevant experience

Part-time jobs, volunteer experiences or summer jobs can all be great opportunities to build skills relevant to your career goals. Keep this in mind as you select your activities.

Visit your Career Services office!

Get help with resume development; job search assistance; career research resources; and preparation for the transition from school to work.

To make an appointment call 744-6350 or email careersuccess@okstate.edu



For more information about Leisure Studies at Oklahoma State University visit...

www.okstate.edu/education/sahep/leisure

Check out "Careers in Recreation" under "Links"

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Leisure Studies

