

Master of Science in Recreational Therapy (MSRT)



College of Public Health

Graduate Student Handbook 2018-2019

Table of Contents

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR THE MASTERS OF RECREATIONAL THERAPY.....	4
INTRODUCTION	5
IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY WEBSITES	6
<i>Student Communication, Records, Registration & Personal Information Websites.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>College of Public Health Websites</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Graduate School Information</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Tuition, Fees, Fellowships, Assistantships:</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>International Student Resources:.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Academic Resources:.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Links of Interest (housing, social, health, mental health, and well-being resources).....</i>	<i>6</i>
RECREATIONAL THERAPY AT TEMPLE UNIVERSITY	7
<i>Mission of the Recreational Therapy Program.....</i>	<i>7</i>
DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SCIENCES.....	8
<i>Department Research Centers.....</i>	<i>8</i>
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEAN’S OFFICE	8
RECREATIONAL THERAPY FACULTY AND ACADEMIC/RESEARCH INTERESTS.....	9
<i>Faculty Academic and Research Interests</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Faculty and Staff Directory.....</i>	<i>10</i>
MASTERS OF RECREATIONAL THERAPY	10
<i>Masters of Science in Recreational Therapy Program Competencies.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Degree Curricula</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>MS Recreational Therapy Course Sequence (with CTRS).....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Elective Courses</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Program Policies & Guidelines.....</i>	<i>16</i>
NATIONAL CERTIFICATION.....	17
FINANCIAL AID.....	17
<i>Intern/Externships.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Student Work-Study.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>How to Apply</i>	<i>17</i>
STUDENT RESOURCES.....	18
<i>Academic Advising</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>How to Register for Courses</i>	<i>18</i>
UNIVERSITY PROCESSES, PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS THAT APPLY TO STUDENTS IN THE MS PROGRAM IN RECREATIONAL THERAPY	18
<i>Accepting or Deferring Admission.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Matriculation Time Requirement.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Transfer of Credit.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Application of Credit Taken Prior to Matriculation.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Continuous Enrollment.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Leaves of Absence.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Extensions of Time</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Standards of Scholarship.....</i>	<i>20</i>

STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES 20
 Completion of Requirements 20
 University Disciplinary Code 21
 Appeals..... 21

FORMS..... 21
 MSRT Program Forms 21
 Graduate School Forms 21

A Message from the Graduate Program Director for the Masters of Recreational Therapy

Dear Student,

Welcome to the Online Master of Science program in Recreational Therapy (MSRT)! I'm the graduate program director and I'm happy to tell you a little bit about the MSRT program. Our department, the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, has a unique focus on promoting independence and community participation of individuals who live with disabilities. One of our foundational beliefs is that all individuals have the right to live full and engaged lives within the community. Recreational therapy is an allied health profession that uses recreation and leisure as a means to promote health, wellness, and improve function among individuals with or at risk for disabilities.

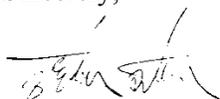
Our MSRT program provides opportunities for students to gain advanced knowledge in recreational therapy. We pride ourselves in our efforts in producing and expanding the profession's repository of evidence-based practice. We focus on preparing students to be future leaders within the profession and, in doing so, a number of our students are engaged in presentations and publications at the local and national level. Many of our graduates have taken on leadership roles within the profession and we are excited to call them colleagues and look forward to our continued collaboration with them.

You are joining the ranks of students from diverse educational backgrounds. We have some students who come into our program with a background in recreational therapy, while others join us with degrees in other related disciplines. For students who don't have a background in recreational therapy, we prepare them to meet the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification eligibility requirements. We find this diversity helps to create a rich learning environment.

Philadelphia is a vibrant community with a multitude of opportunities to see recreational therapy in action. We have partnerships with agencies that serve individuals with physical disabilities, mental health conditions, developmental disabilities, older adults, and children, among others. We also have close connections with community organizations that provide adapted sport opportunities. In fact, many of our students are employed with these partners, providing opportunities to apply classroom knowledge to real-world experiences. Temple's reach extends beyond the Philadelphia region; in fact, our partnerships graduates are across the country! We would love to help connect you to recreational therapists and Temple alumni in your area.

On behalf of myself and faculty within the program, we are so glad you have decided to continue your education and become part of the exciting field of recreational therapy. Best of luck to you and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Gretchen Snethen, PhD, CTRS
Associate Professor
MSRT Graduate Program Director

Introduction

This Graduate Program Handbook was prepared for use by students who have matriculated into the M.S. program in Recreational Therapy in the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences. The Handbook includes the specific requirements, policies and procedures that govern this program. Students with specific questions about program requirements should contact either of the following individuals:

Dr. Gretchen Snethen Graduate Program Director Recreational Therapy 301D, 1700 N. Broad St. Philadelphia PA 19122 gsnethen@temple.edu	Keisha Hankins Academic Coordinator Department of Rehabilitation Sciences Suite 300 A, 1700 N. Broad St. Philadelphia, PA 19122 215.204.2366 Keisha.hankins@temple.edu
--	--

As a general rule, students have the option of fulfilling requirements identified in the current edition of the Handbook in effect at the time of their admission or by meeting revised requirements. It must be emphasized that the rules and regulations stated in the Graduate Recreational Therapy Program Handbook are announcements and **in no way serve as a contract** between a student and Temple University or the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences / Recreational Therapy Program. Moreover, it is the student's responsibility to be aware of program requirements and to meet these requirements for graduation. These responsibilities include: meeting each semester with assigned faculty advisor, establishing a personal contract/academic plan for meeting program requirements, keeping records of the progress made, being aware of and meeting deadlines, and seeking advice and assistance from appropriate persons when necessary.

The Graduate Program Handbook for the M.S. in Recreational Therapy is intended to help students in all aspects of their graduate career at Temple. If there are any ways that this Handbook can be modified to improve its use by students in the M.S. Program, please feel free to pass these suggestions on to the Graduate Program Director.

A copy of this Handbook can also be found on the Canvas course site "TR Professional Issues," under the "MSRT Program Information" tab. At the beginning of your first semester, you will be enrolled in this virtual course community and will find information pertaining to the graduate program on the site.

In addition, please take some time to familiarize yourself with the Temple University Graduate Student Handbook and College of Public Health Graduate Student Handbook, available at the following links: <http://www.temple.edu/grad/policies/gradpolicies.htm#GCSS24>
<https://cph.temple.edu/student-handbooks>

Important University Websites

You are expected to familiarize yourself with the online sources of information described below and elsewhere in this handbook. They will provide you with the most current information on policies, procedures, and deadlines that govern your graduate studies.

Student Communication, Records, Registration & Personal Information Websites

Canvas: <https://canvas.temple.edu>

TUMail: <https://tumail.temple.edu/>

TUPortal (used to access Self-Service Banner): <https://tuportal.temple.edu>

College of Public Health Websites

College of Public Health Homepage: <http://cph.temple.edu/>

Graduate School Information

Graduate School Homepage: <http://www.temple.edu/grad/>

Academic Calendar: <http://www.temple.edu/registrar/documents/calendars/>

Graduate Bulletin: <http://bulletin.temple.edu/graduate/>

Graduate Forms: <http://www.temple.edu/grad/forms/index.htm>

Tuition, Fees, Fellowships, Assistantships:

http://www.temple.edu/grad/admissions/tuition_fees.htm

<http://www.temple.edu/grad/finances/index.htm>

International Student Resources:

International Student Scholar Services: <http://www.temple.edu/iss/>

Intensive English Language Program: <http://temple.edu/provost/international/ielp/>

Academic Resources:

The Writing Center- Graduate Student Resources: <http://www.temple.edu/writingctr/support-for-writers/graduate-students-faculty.asp>

Library: <https://library.temple.edu/>

Links of Interest (housing, social, health, mental health, and well-being resources)

Tuttleman Counseling Services: <http://www.temple.edu/studentaffairs/counseling/>

Student Health Services: <http://www.temple.edu/studenthealth/>

Temple University Graduate Student Association (TUGSA) <http://tugsa.org/>

<http://www.temple.edu/life-at-temple/health-and-wellness>

<https://www.temple.edu/life-at-temple/city-life>

<https://www.temple.edu/life-at-temple/arts-and-culture>

<https://www.temple.edu/faculty-and-staff/campus-services>

Recreational Therapy at Temple University

Recreational Therapy (RT) is an established discipline in health care and human services. Since 1973, Temple University has offered an academic concentration or major in Therapeutic Recreation or RT. In May 2018, the program name was changed to Recreational Therapy. Additionally, the MS degree program was approved to move fully online, providing expanded opportunities for recreational therapy education. Currently, there are two academic degrees for students with career interests in RT -- a B.S. in RT, and an M.S. in Recreational Therapy. Alumni of Temple's RT programs can be found in a wide range of health and human services agencies in and around Philadelphia, and in several states across the country. Many have assumed leadership roles in professional organizations, and several have achieved national distinction and recognition. Academic excellence is also evident in the fact that graduates of Temple's RT programs score above the national average on the national certification examination for recreational therapists administered by an affiliate of the Educational Testing Services (ETS).

Recreational therapists (also called therapeutic recreation specialists) use recreation and other activity-based interventions to assist people who have illnesses and disabilities to improve and maintain physical, cognitive, social, and emotional health and well-being. Additionally, RT professionals assist with and advocate for individuals with disabilities to live physically and socially active lives in the community, thereby reducing health risks associated with various illnesses and disabling conditions and increasing social inclusion within communities. Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists (CTRS) are employed in diverse settings including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, schools, and community recreation agencies. Temple's RT alumni represent a strong and supportive network of Recreational therapists practicing in a wide range of health and human services agencies locally and across the country. According to the most recent U.S. Department of Labor data, employment opportunities are expected to grow faster than average (13 -15% increase) over the next ten years.

Mission of the Recreational Therapy Program

The mission of the Recreational Therapy Program is to prepare recreational therapists to provide play, recreation, and leisure opportunities as a form of health promotion and rehabilitation to individuals with disabilities across the lifespan.

This mission is achieved through three interrelated components -- *teaching, research, and service*. The teaching mission of the program is to provide the best and most current teaching techniques and learning opportunities for students at all academic levels, and to instill a set of values, ethics, and skills that will guide academic pursuit and professional practice. The Program's mission also includes contributing to the ever-changing knowledge base in health, leisure, and disability studies through research and other scholarly activities. The Program's service mission is emphasized through faculty and student service to local and regional agencies and organizations including schools, community recreation providers, and health care and human services agencies. Central to the overall mission of the Recreational Therapy Program is a commitment to access and diversity. This is realized through a commitment to ensuring equal access to all qualified applicants (students and faculty), and a commitment to promoting equal

access to recreation and leisure opportunities for all people regardless of age, economics, race, gender, culture, sexual orientation, religion, or abilities.

Department of Rehabilitation Sciences

Graduate and undergraduate programs in Recreational Therapy (RT) are housed in the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, in the College of Public Health. Formed in 2010, the department combines faculty members in Recreational Therapy and Occupational Therapy. Together, these faculty members focus their research and teaching on advancing community participation and quality of life for individuals with disabilities across the lifespan. Instruction occurs inside and outside the classroom and students have opportunities to interact with peers from the other academic units in the College, including Nursing, Health Services Administration and Policy, Kinesiology, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Communication Sciences & Disorders, Epidemiology and Statistics, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Social Work.

Mailing Address (all faculty/staff mail can be sent to the address below)

1700 N. Broad, Suite 304
Philadelphia, PA 19121

Department Research Centers

Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion

Director: Mark Salzer, PhD

Assistant Director: Gretchen Snethen, PhD, CTRS

Website: www.tucollaborative.org

College of Public Health Dean's Office

Title	Name	Telephone	Email
Dean	Dr. Laura Siminoff	215-204-8624	lasiminoff@temple.edu
Assistant to the Dean	Ms. Natasha De Luna	215-204-8624	natasha.deluna@temple.edu
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs	Dr. Jennifer Ibrahim	215-204-9657	jibrahim@temple.edu

Recreational Therapy Faculty and Academic/Research Interests

Faculty members teaching within the TR Program are actively involved with professional organizations and have been recognized for teaching and research excellence. All faculty members have National Council on Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) certification.

Faculty Academic and Research Interests

- **Heather Burket, M.Ed., CTRS, CCLS**
Anxiety, stress and coping within the family system; TR Pediatric Practice, Advancement of the Child Life profession, Strengths based approaches, Professional involvement
- **Aurora Crew, M.S., CTRS**
Engagement in recreational therapy modalities to improve quality of life in older adults and those with dementia; Positive cognitive, social and physical benefits of structured recreational therapy sessions for individuals with dementia; Positive coping techniques for caregivers of older adults.
- **Ann Dolloff, M.Ed., CTRS**
Community Integration, Adapted Recreation, Summer Camp & Non-profit Administration, Youth Development, Assistive Technology, Disability Culture
- **Bryan McCormick, Ph.D., CTRS**
Recreation & Leisure interventions for individuals with schizophrenia and serious mental illnesses to increase social connectedness and community participation; environmental enrichment; international use of recreational therapy to improve psychosocial outcomes
- **Alexis McKenney, Ed.D., CTRS**
Behavioral and mental health; anger management, character development, values development; disability simulations; recreational therapy internationally
- **Heather Porter, Ph.D., CTRS**
Physical Rehabilitation, Leisure Meanings, Individual and Family Counseling, Social model of disability (ICF)
- **Mark Salzer, Ph.D.**
Role of leisure and recreation for promoting service engagement and enhancing participation in multiple domains (e.g., work, school, dating, parenting, etc.) for individuals with serious mental illnesses; outcomes of such activities (e.g., well-being, recovery, cognition, social support and relationships, symptom reduction) for these individuals
- **John Shank, Ed.D., CTRS (Emeritus)**
Social-psychological Aspects of Health, Leisure and Disability, Community-Based Play and Recreation, Group Process and Group Work, Stress and Coping, Ethics
- **Gretchen Snethen, Ph.D., CTRS**
Recreational Therapy as a means to promote independent community participation, physical activity, and psychosocial well-being among adults with mental health conditions; Supporting active transportation (walking/biking) to increase independence and physical activity
- **Gena Bell Vargas, Ph.D., CTRS**
Integration of autonomy, competence, and relatedness in therapeutic recreation practice as a method to intrinsically motivate clients; Integration of Aromatherapy practices into TR/RT; Mental Health; Recreation and Overall Well-Being; Positive Psychology and Strengths Based approaches
- **Courtney Feckse, M.S., CTRS**
Exploring experiences on the modality of sport environment and sport participation for individuals with physical disabilities and application for evidence based practice for

recreational therapy; utilizing empowering qualitative methods of inquiry to provide voice to individuals with disabilities relative to recreational experiences

Faculty and Staff Directory

Name & Title	Office & E-mail Address	Phone
Heather Burket, M.Ed., CTRS, CCLS Instructor	1700 N. Broad Street, 301N hburket@temple.edu	215.204.3947
Aurora Crew, M.S., CTRS Assistant Professor	1700 N. Broad Street, 304A aurora.crew@temple.edu	215.204.2703
Ann Dolloff, M.Ed., CTRS Instructor	1700 N. Broad Street, 301B Ann.dolloff@temple.edu	215.204.5701
Bryan McCormick, Ph.D., CTRS Professor	1700 N. Broad Street, 301C bryan.mccormick@temple.edu	215.204.6817
Alexis McKenney, Ph.D., CTRS	1700 N. Broad Street, 304B alexis.mckenney@temple.edu	215.204.1387
Heather Porter, Ph.D., CTRS Associate Professor	1700 N. Broad Street, 304D hporter@temple.edu	215.204.5746
Mark Salzer, Ph.D. Professor	1700 N. Broad Street, 301A msalzer@temple.edu	215.204.7879
Gretchen Snethen, Ph.D., CTRS Associate Professor	1700 N. Broad Street, 301D gsnethen@temple.edu	215.204.2748
Gena Bell Vargas, Ph.D., CTRS Assistant Professor	1700 N. Broad Street, 301D gena.vargas@temple.edu	215.204.2748
Keisha Hankins Academic Coordinator	1700 N. Broad Street, 300A keisha.hankins@temple.edu	215.204.2366
Lafrance Howard Department Coordinator	1700 N. Broad Street, 304 lafrance.howard@temple.edu	215.204.3934

Master of Science in Recreational Therapy

The 36 semester-hour master's program in recreational therapy (MSRT) is designed for individuals who want to advance their knowledge and skills related to evidence based practice within health care and human services. The curriculum teaches from a conceptual model of health promotion and rehabilitation and maintains a lifespan perspective in three core areas: health, disability, and leisure. Based on academic and professional goals, students may develop an area of specialization with guidance from a faculty member.

Students who do not have an academic background in Recreational Therapy (RT) may use the program to meet eligibility requirements for the national credentialing examination for recreational therapists. While this graduate program does not require prerequisite courses to qualify for admission, students may be required to take additional courses necessary for national certification. These courses are listed in the coursework section as *leveling courses*. As an exit requirement, all M.S. students must successfully complete an exit exam and develop an evidence-based recreational therapy protocol.

Master of Science in Recreational Therapy Program Competencies

Graduates of the MSRT program at Temple University will meet the following competencies.

1. Use factual knowledge of the history and development of the field of recreational therapy (RT) to evaluate the current status and future development of RT in health and human services systems.
2. Use strategic thinking and procedural knowledge of research, conceptual models, and theoretical frameworks to create individual and programmatic evidence-based, recreational therapy interventions and services.
3. Apply meta-cognitive knowledge of human development, function, and relationships in reflective client-centered practice.
4. Use conceptual knowledge of health and human services systems to create effective and efficient RT services.

Course objectives are designed to develop these competencies throughout the curriculum.

Degree Curricula

The following pages display the typical course sequence for the M.S. degree program for both students entering with and without an academic or clinical background in recreational therapy. Students should be aware that deviation from the suggested course sequence may increase time to degree as all courses are not offered every semester. Students choosing to develop a “cognate” or “area of specialization” as part of the academic program should consult with the faculty advisor about appropriate courses and their suitability for being used to achieve specialty certification with the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC). Descriptions of the graduate courses can be found in the Graduate Bulletin or Banner. Students also have the ability to complete the program part time. However, you should reach out to the program director to develop an individualized course timeline to meet your needs.

Graduate students with academic and professional experience in RT and current NCTRC certification have an opportunity, in consultation with a faculty advisor, to individualize coursework according to one’s academic and professional development plan. Students may choose coursework that meets the requirements for specialty certification managed by the NCTRC.

Students who do not have an academic or clinical background in recreational therapy may be admitted to the degree program and use the required courses *as well as* prerequisite and supportive courses beyond the degree to meet the academic sitting requirements for the national credentialing examination for recreational therapists. These students are required to complete one undergraduate leveling course at Temple University, as well as other “support” coursework that is required for the national credentialing exam by the end of their first year in the program. All

students should meet with their faculty advisor to discuss what supportive coursework is needed. Three courses (Developmental Psychology/Lifespan Human Development, Abnormal Psychology, and Human Anatomy & Physiology) may be prerequisites for specific courses within the M.S. degree program. Students should have their supportive coursework completed by the end of their first year of graduate studies.

All students in the program are required to complete HRPR 5001: Current/Emerging Issues in Public Health/Health Professions. This is an online course that carries 0 credits but must be completed prior to enrolling in RCTH 5302: Evidence Based Practice in Recreational Therapy II. Students are not charged tuition for this course.

M.S. Recreational Therapy Course Sequence- Without NCTRC Certification

Course Delivery schedule for full time students entering without NCTRC Certification
(Part time study options are also available)

Students without the Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) credential * changed from 33 to 36 credits			
Pre-or-Post Acceptance	Fall 1st Year	Spring 1st year	Summer 1st year
Temple THRC 3096 Assessment & Documentation (must be completed by the end of semester 1) NCTRC Requirements Anatomy & Physiology Developmental Psychology Abnormal Psychology	RCTH 5001 Grad Research I	RCTH 5311 Conceptual & Contemporary Issues in Recreational Therapy	* <i>Elective (optional)</i> HRPR 5001 Current and Emerging Issues in Public Health Professions (0 credits)
	RCTH 5102 Recreational Therapy Now & Then RCTH 5301 Evidence Based Practice in Recreational Therapy I <i>THRC 3096 – if not completed in summer</i> (9 Credits)	RCTH 5402: Recreational Therapy Administration RCTH 5312 Leisure, Health, & Interventions (9 Credits)	
	Fall 2nd Year	Spring 2nd year	Summer 2nd year
	*Elective #1 *Elective #2 RCTH 5442 Program Planning in Recreational Therapy (9 credits)	RCTH 5302 Evidence Based Practice in Recreational Therapy II *Elective #3 (6 credits)	RCTH 5787 Recreational Therapy Practicum (3 credits)

Additional Coursework for NCTRC Certification:

All students will need to provide evidence of successfully completing the following undergraduate courses prior to graduation from the MS in RT program. These courses may have been completed prior to admission into the MS in RT program. Students who have not completed these courses prior to admission should arrange to take them at other institutions while enrolled in the Temple MS in RT degree program (online courses, community college courses, etc.). Many students opt to use Summer during Year 1 to complete any remaining supportive coursework. Students are advised to confer with the MS in RT Coordinator prior to enrolling in courses to ensure they meet NCTRC requirements.

1. Human Anatomy & Physiology I

2. Developmental Psychology (Across the Lifespan)
3. Psychopathology

MS Recreational Therapy Course Sequence (with CTRS)

Course Delivery schedule for students entering with NCTRC Certification (36 CH)

(Part time study options are also available.)

Students who possess the CTRS credential (changed from 33 to 36 credits)		
Fall 1st Year	Spring 1st year	Summer 1st year
RCTH 5102 Recreational Therapy Now & Then RCTH 5301 Evidence Based Practice in Recreational Therapy I RCTH 5001 Grad Research I	RCTH 5311 Conceptual & Contemporary Issues in Recreational Therapy RCTH 5402 Recreational Therapy Administration RCTH 5312 Leisure, Health, & Interventions	<i>*Elective (optional)</i> HRPR 5001 Current and Emerging Issues in Public Health and Health Professions (0 credits)
(9 Credits)	(9 Credits)	
Fall 2nd Year	Spring 2nd year	Summer 2nd year
*Elective #1 *Elective #2 RCTX 5442 Program Planning in Recreational Therapy	RCTH 5302 Evidence Based Practice in Recreational Therapy II *Elective #3 *Elective #4	
(9 credits)	(9 credits)	

NOTES:

- + Students with interest in teaching are strongly encouraged to complete HRPR 8985 (but not required for MS in RT). In some cases, this course can be substituted for a RT elective.

Elective Courses

Sample Elective Coursework

Detailed below are the suggested courses associated with each cognate area. Students with NCTRC certification may substitute other courses with the permission of their advisor. This is a partial list and course options are constantly changing. Please refer to the University's Graduate School web site for course descriptions (www.temple.edu/gradcourses). **Please note:** some courses are only offered in certain semesters, and may require prerequisites or advanced permission of a course instructor in order to enroll.

Elective Options (this list is not exhaustive)

RCTH 5009: Entrepreneurship in Health Professions
RCTH 5105: Health, Activities, and Aging
RCTH 5201: Managing Dementia Care
RCTH 5204: RT and Assistive Technology
RCTH 5214: Child Life
RCTH 5261 RT and Disabilities Seminar I
RCTH 5271 RT and Disabilities Seminar II
RCTH 5250: Special Topics
RCTH 5314: Leisure Time Physical Activity and Community Engagement in RT
RCTH 5315: Social Engagement and Community Participation in RT
RCTH 5316: Measuring Health and Disability: The ICF
RCTH 5382: Independent Study
HRPR 8985 Teaching in Higher Education

Selecting Diverse Electives

Students are required to complete 3-4 RT electives. In order to meet NCTRC requirements and best prepare for the exam, students without a background in RT will be advised to take 5261 Recreational Therapy and Disabilities Seminar I and RCTH 5271 Recreational Therapy and Disabilities Seminar II. A number of the electives are approached from broad topical areas that allow students to apply assignments to their own interests. Students are encouraged to discuss interests with faculty early in the semester.

Additional Course Options from Other Departments

Depending on individual student interest and background, it is occasionally possible for students to fulfill one or more of their Electives with courses from other departments/programs in the University. The Graduate Program Director can make recommendations and must approve all courses if they are to be used to fulfill this degree requirement.

Teaching n Higher Education Certificate

The Teaching and Learning Center at Temple University offers a certificate for Teaching in Higher Education. The first course, HRPR 8985 (Teaching in Higher Education) can be used to count as one elective.

Exit Requirement for the M.S. in Recreational Therapy

Candidates for the M.S. in Recreational Therapy are required to complete a culminating exit exam as well as an evidence-based protocol. This will be completed during RCTH 5302 EBP II.

Program Policies & Guidelines

Clearances

MSRT students may be expected to participate in service learning hours at agencies external to the university. Therefore, students must set up an account with Castlebranch and obtain the clearances listed below. This should be completed during the first month of the MSRT program and students should confirm with the Academic Coordinator when this is completed.

All required health and criminal clearances MUST be obtained through CastleBranch.com. All health immunization requirements need to be completed on TEMPLE paperwork and uploaded to CastleBranch.com. We have contracted a flat rate with this company for a Temple package. All information can be obtained on line.

To order your clearances, go to: <https://www.castlebranch.com/> - Click on "Place Order" - In the Package Code box, type "TE77" Select method of payment. Payment for the Child Abuse Clearance will need to be done separately, but the online system will instruct you on how to complete this process. Additional instructions can be found on the MSRT tab in Blackboard, or by calling Castlebranch directly. If you have any difficulties with the CastleBranch system, please contact the Service Desk: <https://www.castlebranch.com/contact-us> - Hours of operation: Monday-Thursday 8am-10pm EST; Friday 8am-6:30pm EST; Sunday 10am-6:30pm EST

For those of you having difficulty finding the PA Child Abuse Form, you can locate it

at: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>. For additional information, go to: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS/Public/ClearanceLearnMore>. In filling out the section "Purpose of Clearance", it was suggested that you mark: "Employment with likelihood of significant contact with children". There is an option for electronic submission. Remember, send a money order and keep your tracking number/receipt.

Required Clearances

- Child Abuse Clearance (Valid for 1 year, will need to renew)
- Criminal Background Check (Valid for 1 year, will need to renew)
- 1 Step TB Test (Valid for 1 year, will need to renew)
- University Health Screen, Immunizations and Bloodwork/Lab Report
- Pediatric & Adult CPR Certification
- First Aid Certification

Involvement Outside of the Classroom

Students are encouraged to have a professional development plan, which is intended to guide learning experiences beyond the required coursework.

Professional Issues Canvas Site

All students in the program will be enrolled in the TR Professional Issues Canvas Site. Through this site, students will receive information about volunteer and employment opportunities, professional conferences and workshops, professional student scholarships and awards and other valuable information.

Professional Organization Involvement

Students are encouraged to become familiar and involved with Recreational Therapy professional organizations. These organizations are tremendous resources for information, education and networking.

American Therapeutic Recreation Association: <http://www.atra-online.com>

New Jersey/Eastern Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Association: <http://www.NJEPA-TRA.com>

Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Society: <http://www.ptrs.org>

National Certification

The MSRT program meets the educational and internship requirements for eligibility to sit for the National Council on Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) exam. Students entering the program with certification should know that graduate courses in Recreational Therapy fulfill continuing education requirements.

Students should be familiar with the eligibility and maintenance requirements. These can be reviewed by going to NCTRC's website: www.nctrc.org

Financial Aid

Financial aid can be broadly categorized into two types: (1) Academic intern/externship and (2) Work-study. Please note that students must have a 3.25 undergraduate GPA to be eligible for an assistantship or internship.

Intern/Externships

Graduate intern/externships are sometimes available to the Department through the College of Public Health. This category of financial support provides an hourly wage for specific services but tuition remission is provided only for Academic Interns. The Graduate Program Director is the point of contact for intern/extern appointments sponsored by the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences. Students may also obtain intern/externships from other offices/programs in the University, such as Campus Recreation. To be considered for these appointments, students should complete an application available from Student Affairs and forward it to the appropriate administrative department.

Student Work-Study

Graduate students are eligible for work-study money, which is paid on an hourly basis. Information on this type of support can be obtained from the Student Financial Services website at <http://www.temple.edu/sfs>.

How to Apply

In general, it is best to discuss intern/extern – teaching/research assistantships with the department. Students should check with their faculty advisor or the program coordinator about potential opportunities and the application process. Students can review opportunities throughout the University at <http://www.temple.edu/grad/finances/>

Student Resources

Academic Advising

After admission into the M.S. in Recreational Therapy all students are assigned a faculty advisor. This advisor will help you interpret the rules that govern the program, will work with you to make decisions on issues such as course waivers and electives, and will act as your mentor during your program of study. It is very important that you meet with your academic advisor at least once each semester. Appointments are typically scheduled in connection with registration for the next semester's courses, but are also available at other times.

How to Register for Courses

Initial Registration

The following steps should be followed when initially registering as a newly-admitted graduate student for courses at Temple. You should:

- Make an appointment to speak with your faculty advisor to discuss the schedule for the upcoming semester.
- Email the Academic Coordinator to register for selected classes.
- Log on to TU Portal and click TU Pay to view and pay your tuition and fees.

Subsequent Registrations

Students should meet with their academic advisor at least once each semester before registering for the next semester's courses. To register for subsequent courses, follow the following steps:
How Do I Search Course Descriptions in Self-Service Banner (SSB)?

1. Go to the SSB Class Schedule Search.
2. Select a term, then click the Submit button.
3. Select a subject, then click on the Class Search button.
4. Select the course you're interested in viewing by placing your mouse pointer over the course title (the title will change color and become underlined when selected)
5. Select "View Catalog Entry and Course Description".

From there, you'll click the Student Menu and then Add or Drop Classes to enter the Course Reference Number (CRN) of each course and then click Submit Changes. A video tutorial is available by clicking the red question mark for Help in the upper right corner of your TU Portal account. If you have difficulties registering, contact the Academic Coordinator for assistance.

University Processes, Procedures and Regulations that Apply to Students in the MS Program in Recreational Therapy

Every effort is made to assure that these are the most current policies, procedures and regulations, however, students should confirm these policies by visiting the Graduate School website at <http://www.temple.edu/grad/policies/index.htm>.

Accepting or Deferring Admission

A certificate of admission to a graduate program in the Recreational Therapy Program is valid for the semester indicated in the letter of admission. If a student does not enroll for the semester indicated, she or he must request, in writing, a deferral of admission.

Matriculation Time Requirement

The time period for completing the master's degree in the Recreational Therapy Program begins with the semester for which the student is matriculated. The program of courses and exit requirements must be completed within four years from the time of matriculation. The Department may grant one one-year extension beyond this time. Any additional extensions can only be granted by the Graduate Board's Student Appeal Committee. Students should be aware that a leave of absence does not extend the time limit to complete the degree. It only allows you to meet the requirement for continuous enrollment or be dismissed from the program.

Transfer of Credit

Transfer of credit from other institutions is limited, with program approval, to no more than 20 percent of the total credit hours required by the master's program. All transfer credits must be of "B" quality or better. Courses requested for transfer must have been taken no more than five years prior to the date when the request is made. Transfer of credit for extension or correspondence courses is not permitted. Requests for transfer of credit must be made on the Transfer of Credit Form, which may be obtained from the Graduate School website. Requests for transfer of credit must be documented by an official transcript sent directly to the student's program by the Registrar or some other appropriate authority at the approved institution where the credits were earned.

Application of Credit Taken Prior to Matriculation

A maximum of nine (9) credits of work done at Temple University (usually through Continuing Education) prior to the semester of matriculation may be counted toward satisfying degree requirements. Additional credits may be counted only with permission of the Graduate Program Coordinator and the University Graduate Board through a separate appeal process.

Continuous Enrollment

All students enrolled in a master's program must be enrolled every fall and spring semester between matriculation and graduation except during those semesters for which a leave of absence has been granted.

Leaves of Absence

Students may request a leave of absence for a period of time not to exceed one year. A written request using the Graduate School's form, indicating the reason for the leave of absence, must be approved by the student's advisor and the Graduate Program Coordinator. Leaves of absence will be granted only for documented cases of personal illness, family emergencies, or extreme personal problems. The form requesting the leave of absence can be obtained from the Graduate School website. Students should be aware that obtaining a Leave of Absence does not extend the time to complete one's degree and that no more than four semesters (Fall and Spring) can be taken as Leaves of Absence while still remaining active in the program.

Extensions of Time

Students may apply for an extension of time to complete their graduate degree program if they have exceeded the allotted time period. Students must indicate the reason(s) for the request and must submit a written plan to complete the degree within the requested time extension. This request must be signed by the student's advisor and the Graduate Program Coordinator. A form for this request is available at the Graduate School website. Students in the master's degree program may receive no more than a total of one year of extension during their program. If these time limits are exceeded, students must petition the Graduate School's Student Appeal Committee for an additional extension.

Standards of Scholarship

A student is expected to maintain satisfactory progress toward a degree. A student's graduate record begins with the first course credited to a degree and includes all subsequent courses, whether or not such work is required for the degree.

Additional *academic standards* apply to all Recreational Therapy graduate students within the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences:

- No more than two grades of less than "B-" quality, beginning with the semester during which she/he matriculates in the program. If a student has taken a course or courses prior to matriculation, and if the student intends to count these courses toward his or her degree, then this rule applies to those courses as well;
- No more than one grade of "F" during his/her graduate program;
- A grade point average of at least 3.0 at graduation;
- No "I" (Incomplete) on his/her graduate record at graduation;
- Registration for additional course work is not permissible if a student has more than six semester hours of incomplete grades.
- Consideration of credits earned at another institution, in another degree program, or in graduate work done at Temple prior to the time of matriculation may only be requested if that work is of "A" or "B" quality;
- The same course may be taken more than once if the subject matter in the course varies from semester to semester and only if this variability is clearly documented in the appropriate departmental publications;
- Courses may be retaken with the permission of his/her advisor, if a "Repeat Course Request Form" has completed and submitted to the Department. The second grade replaces the first grade, if it is higher than the first, for purposes of grade point average calculations. Both grades remain on the transcript and are included in evaluating the two grades less than B- and one F rule.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

Completion of Requirements

It is the responsibility of graduate students to become informed about deadline dates, requirements for degrees, and requirements for graduation. To receive a degree, students must submit their graduation

application through TUPortal by the deadline indicated on the University calendar. This will also be communicated through email to the student's Temple email address.

University Disciplinary Code

All student behavior at the University is governed by the Student Disciplinary Code of Conduct. This Code covers such activities as plagiarism and the possession of dangerous drugs. Violations of this code can ultimately be brought before the University Disciplinary Committee. Students should become aware of the specific details of this code by obtaining a copy of the Student Rights, Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures which is available in the Student Assistance Center.

Appeals

Students have the right to appeal negative decisions which affect their ability to complete a graduate program. Example of such appeals includes the dismissal from a graduate program for failure to receive satisfactory grades, failure to pass a course within two attempts, or to register continuously. These various appeals are handled by different committees or administrators, depending on the nature of the appeal. To learn more about the different processes, please consult the Graduate School's Policy manual regarding Academic Appeals:

<http://www.temple.edu/grad/policies/gradpolicies.htm#AAGB29>

Forms

MSRT Program Forms

Forms that you might need to complete for the program are hosted on the TR Professional issues site under the MSRT Program information tab.

- Handbook Acknowledgement form: At the start of the program, you will be asked to sign a form acknowledging your familiarity with this Handbook.
- Photo Release: You will also be asked to complete the photo release. This will cover your entire time in the program. We love to feature the activities our students are engaged in! This form will let us brag about all the exciting things you're doing!

Graduate School Forms

Students should refer to the Graduate School website <http://www.temple.edu/grad/forms> to access the following forms that may apply to some students, but not all.

- Advanced Standing Request
- Excused Withdrawal Due to Serious Extenuating Circumstances
- Extension of Time for Master's Degree
- Full Time Status Request for INTERNATIONAL Students
- Leave of Absence Request
- Non-Graduate Petition to Participate in Commencement Ceremonies
- Other Employment Request
- Petition for Reinstatement to a Graduate Degree Program
- Request to Take Undergraduate Course for Graduate Credit

- Transfer of Graduate Credit Request