



FACT SHEET

Degree Purpose

The Recreation Program (BS degree) at Chicago State University serves an urban community traditionally underrepresented in parks, recreation, and leisure higher education and the recreation and leisure profession. The Recreation Program provides quality undergraduate education and partners with a wide variety of recreation and leisure providers within the Chicago Metropolitan Area to enhance student education and provide the leisure profession with sensitive, knowledgeable, and diverse professionals in a variety of recreation and leisure areas. The faculty provides knowledge, training, and supportive research to the profession to further the development of leisure and recreation opportunities.

Program Goal

The goals of the recreation program are to strengthen students' academic and lifelong learning skills (e.g., communication, technology, study, time management, library and research, reading, mathematics) and to increase the number of under-represented professionals in the field of recreation. Students are encouraged to participate in state and national conferences with other recreation professionals, take field trips to appropriate recreation facilities, participate in the Physical Education and Recreation Club (PERC) and engage in fieldwork at a variety of agencies.

Program Requirements

A grade of C or above is required in all recreation courses and supportive courses, either as transfer credit or completed at CSU. In addition, A minimum of 30 credit hours must be completed at CSU with a cumulative GPA of 2.5

Careers

The delivery of recreation and leisure services has become a multi-billion dollar industry. Well-educated individuals are needed to create, manage and execute high-quality recreation programs for youth and community agencies, health care facilities, health clubs, sports facilities, municipal parks and recreation departments, resorts, entertainment places, schools, colleges and universities.

Moreover, the employment outlook for college graduates with a major in recreation/leisure is very bright. Job opportunities within the recreation field continue to be strong, as the Department of Labor projects that Recreation Professionals will be one of the fastest growing job opportunities in the near future!

The success of recent Chicago State University (CSU) graduates in all areas of recreation and leisure studies confirms the projections by the Department of Labor and reflects the respect that employers have for CSU in the field of recreation.

Courses Required [Core + Concentration]

REC 1000 Introduction to Leisure Studies
REC 1500 Seminar in Recreation
REC 2000 Program Planning for Leisure Studies
REC 2010 Philosophy of Leisure & Recreation
REC 2070 Technology for PE and Recreation
REC 2200 Leadership & Supervision
REC 2300 Outdoor Recreation and Team Building
REC 2580 Leisure Programming for Adults in Later Life
REC 4000 Facility Management and Design
REC 4240 Management of Leisure Service
REC 4300 Overview of Therapeutic Recreation services
REC 4500 Program Evaluation and Research
REC 4540 Seminar and Methodology in Recreation
REC 4750 Internship (9 credits)

Concentrations (Emphasis Areas):

The professional program of study is designed to prepare graduates for a career in the recreation and leisure industry. The Recreation Program at CSU offers two emphasis areas:

PARKS, RECREATION AND SPORTS

ADMINISTRATION (PRSA)

The PRSA emphasis area prepares students for multiple opportunities in the recreation field. PRSA prepares graduates for leadership in supervisory and administrative positions in park and recreation departments, youth and community agencies, commercial recreation, fitness and health facilities, resort areas, campus recreation, and arm forces/military.

The organizations that employ recreation professionals are highly diversified. Combined, these organizations meet every type of leisure need or interest for the public including people with special needs and special interest groups. The program prepares graduates for leadership, programming and supervisory positions in:

- Municipal and county park recreation departments
- Camps and camping programs
- Non-profit organizations (YMCAs/YWCAs, Boys Clubs, Girl Clubs, etc.)
- Corporate recreation departments
- Commercial recreation providers
- Campus recreation
- Resorts and resort communities
- Military recreation departments
- Other youth and community agencies



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THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

The Therapeutic Recreation (TR) tract prepares students to deliver therapeutic recreation services. Services include assessing individuals; planning, implementing, and evaluating recreation programs for people with disabilities, illnesses, and special needs. Many of whom may need assistance in developing skills for leisure involvement.

An individual pursuing a career in Therapeutic Recreation is involved in using recreation as a tool to work with people with physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, mental illness, limitations due to aging, dependency on alcohol or other drugs, or work with youth who are considered at-risk. Graduates may work in rehabilitation centers, hospitals, nursing homes, childcare agencies, correctional facilities, schools, parks and recreation agencies, and other health and human service agencies. Upon completion of a recreation degree from the CSU accredited program students can pursue becoming a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) through the National Council for TR Certification (www.nctrc.org).

THERAPEUTIC RECREATION CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Certification Program is designed to enable individuals to attain certification (CTRS) by the National Council on Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC). A major advantage of this program is that courses completed in this certificate may be applied towards a master degree. This certification is required to be employed by Special Recreation Associations and Park.

Articulations:

Articulations have been formed with Moraine Valley Community College, Prairie State College, and South Suburban College to ease transition from those two-year institutions into the Recreation Major at CSU. These articulations have already established which courses from these two-year institutions count for which courses at CSU.

Contact:

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PACTS Conceptual Framework

All activities in the College of Education are guided by the belief that we **P**repare **A**ll **C**andidates **T**o **S**ucceed, which translates into the PACTS acronym. The PACTS acronym also represents the strands for the College of Education's Conceptual Framework:

- P** – Professionalism
- A** – Assessment
- C** – Content
- T** – Technology
- S** – Standards

Why Choose Chicago State University?

Chicago State University's Recreation program is unique. It serves an urban community traditionally underrepresented in the leisure profession and has been **nationally accredited since 2004**. The program provides comprehensive and high quality courses of study in Parks, Recreation and Sports Administration and Therapeutic Recreation. Graduates have gone onto successful professional careers in the Chicago Park District and surrounding districts, Special Recreation Associations, and in facilities for the elderly and those with disabilities. In the program, students engage with "student-centered" faculty who possess extensive practitioner backgrounds. Students are encouraged to participate in professional development and networking via conferences and volunteerism.

Chicago State University Recreation Program is **Accredited** by the National Recreation and Parks Association/Council on Accreditation Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (NRPA/COAPRT). It is one of 100 schools to have earned this accreditation.

Chicago State University is conveniently located for residents of Chicago and the wider metropolitan suburban areas and has the following benefits:

- Affordable:** One of the least expensive in the state.
- Accessible:** Ample parking space available.
- Diverse:** A diverse community with a predominately minority and female student body.
- Personal:** Students receive individual specialized attention.
- Progressive:** CSU has a brand new Library and Convocation Center featuring a 7,000-seat arena.
- Safety:** Rated one of the safest campuses in the state.