What Can I Do With A Major In:
Parks and Recreation Management

Western Carolina University Center for Career and Professional Development
828.227.7133, careers.wcu.edu

DESCRIPTION
Prepares students for jobs in the leisure service and tourism industries, as well as with land agencies such as the National Parks and U.S. Forest Service.

WHAT JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Owner</th>
<th>Faith-Based Recreation</th>
<th>Park Management</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camp Management</td>
<td>Fitness Instructor</td>
<td>Private Recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Manager</td>
<td>Government Recreation</td>
<td>Program Coordinator</td>
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<td>Civic Center Director</td>
<td>Groundskeeper</td>
<td>Recreation Retail</td>
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<td>Coach</td>
<td>Guest Relations</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
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<td>Convention Center Manager</td>
<td>Hospitality Coordinator</td>
<td>Resort Management</td>
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<td>Cultural Arts Manager</td>
<td>Hotel Management</td>
<td>Sales/Marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Local Recreation</td>
<td>Senior Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event/Program Planner</td>
<td>Natural Resource Management</td>
<td>Therapy Recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities Management</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>Travel Manager</td>
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WHO EMPLOY STUDENTS WITH THIS MAJOR?
Hotels and resorts | Non-profit organizations | Government agencies | Convention services | Schools and universities | Hospitals and health organizations | Camps and outdoor recreational programs.

INTERNSHIP INFORMATION
Excellent internship opportunities, including the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway, Navitat, Nantahala Outdoor Center, Project SOAR, and several camps, surround the WCU campus. The strongest industry in the region is tourism, so our students enjoy internships at attractions and resorts in Western North Carolina and in the coastal areas of both North and South Carolina at places like Wilmington, Hilton Head Island, Myrtle Beach, and Charleston. Community parks and recreation agencies abound in the region.

WHAT SKILLS ARE LEARNED IN THE CLASSROOM?
Independent Worker | Information Handling & Organization | Curiosity and Creativity | Planning Abilities | Oral & Written Communication | Resourcefulness | Leadership Skills | Innovative Talents | Problem Solving | Teamwork
KNOWLEDGE

1. Leadership and Decision-making: Students will have the ability to apply leadership and decision-making theory to include: ethics, entre/entrepreneurship, management of human behavior, group dynamics, and face-to-face leadership.

2. Program Planning: Students will have the skills to plan programs to include: proposal writing, the planning process, risk management, budgeting and marketing.

3. Administration: Students will have the ability to administrative functions to include: facilities, financial analysis, strategic planning, risk management, legal issues, policies, boards, and supervision.

4. Research: Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct basic research and evaluation techniques in recreation and leisure studies. This would include: needs assessment, descriptive research, evaluative research, and experimental research.

5. Outdoor Leadership and Instruction: Students will be able to lead and instruct safely in the outdoors to include: experiential education methods, outdoor emergency care, outdoor living skills, rescue, adaptive techniques and interpretation.

6. Communication: Students will be able to communicate in the following ways: written, verbal, facilitational, through computer use, and comprehensive reading of the professional literature.

7. Career Search: Students will demonstrate the steps to becoming employable as a recreational professional by successfully using the career search techniques of: resume and application letter writing, interview techniques, creating and updating a professional online presence and by receiving references for internships completed while at WCU.

8. Foundations: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the 'foundations' of Recreation and Leisure services to include: social functions, historical aspects, government roles, tourism, philosophy, psychology, definitions, specialized services, and natural resources use and management.

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

● National Recreation and Parks Association - http://www.nrpa.org
● National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials - http://nacpro.org/
● Tip: Join LinkedIn groups that are related to your career interest. Need help finding groups? Check out the “Groups You May Like” link under the Interests/Groups tab. Review the groups that professionals in your field of interest have joined and consider joining them as well.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES

● See the Parks and Recreation Career Center at: http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Career-Center/Resources/Choosing-a-Career-in-Parks-and-Recreation/

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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