What Can I Do With A Major In: Recreational Therapy

Western Carolina University Center for Career and Professional Development

DESCRIPTION
The Recreational Therapy program is to prepare competent entry-level recreational therapists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains.

WHAT JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?

- Lifestyle Counseling
- Music Therapist
- Dance Therapist
- Exercise Therapist
- Behavioral Management Therapist
- Lifestyle Counselor
- Guided Imagery Therapist
- Therapeutic Masseuse
- Meditation Therapist
- Family Therapist
- Reality Orientation
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Rehabilitation Counselor
- School Counselor
- Career Counselor
- Special Ed. Teacher
- Speech Language Pathologist
- Art Therapist
- Mental Health Therapist
- Psychologist
- Substance Abuse Therapist
- Genetic Counselor
- Athletic Trainer
- Education Administrator
- Dietitian
- Nutritionist
- Human Service Assistant

WHO EMPLOYS STUDENTS WITH THIS MAJOR?
Psychiatric hospitals | Nursing & convalescent homes | Community outreach programs | Private consulting | Wilderness therapy programs | Adult day care centers | Prisons & juvenile care centers | Physical rehabilitation facilities

INTERNERSHIP INFORMATION
As part of the Recreational Therapy curriculum, students must complete a summer internship that allows them to apply the knowledge that they have gained from the classroom into a professional setting. Western’s Recreational Therapy program is allied with various agencies from across the country which allows students to gain diverse learning experiences. Our current list of contracts are constantly evolving each semester to meet the needs and interests of our students. Below are our current list of contracts as of the Spring semester of 2014.

Internship Contracts, Spring 2014 (PDF)

WHAT SKILLS ARE LEARNED IN THE CLASSROOM?
Leadership | Person-first language | Curiosity and Creativity | Oral & Written Communication | Critical Evaluation | Problem Solving | Research Skills | Teamwork | Patience

KNOWLEDGE
- Students are eligible to sit for the Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist exam upon satisfactory completion of the WCU RT major program of study.
- Completion of a 14 week, 560 hour internship with a credentialed recreational therapist.
- The Clinical Performance Summary score annual results for all graduates. This data is collected by ratings from internship supervisors within two weeks after the student has completed the internship.

Interested in the classes you’ll be taking? Check you your eight semester program here: http://www.wcu.edu/academics/departments-schools-colleges/HHS/hhs-schools-depts/healthsci/health-sciences-majors/rth/recreational-therapy-curriculum/eight-semester-plan-for-b.s.-in-recreational-therapy.asp

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES
- American Therapeutic Recreation Association - https://www.atra-online.com/
- 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
- Learn how to become: http://www.learnhowtobecome.org/vocational-trade-schools/physical-therapy/
- National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification: http://nctrc.org/

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Recreational Therapy Dept
305 Health and Human Sciences Building
828-227-2715
Jennifer Hinton
jhinton@email.wcu.edu

Center for Career and Professional Development
Killian Annex 205
828-227-7133
careerservices@wcu.edu