

## Recreational Therapy Program Admissions Policy

The Recreational Therapy Program established a cohort model that started in the fall of 2019. Each fall, a group of students is admitted and follows an established sequence of courses over the following 5 semesters, graduating together as a group in May of the final year.

Application Deadline: We accept applications on September 15<sup>th</sup> each fall. Application information will be sent to all pre-majors at the start of each fall semester. All information will also be online for potential transfer students. Questions can be directed to Jennifer Hinton, Program Director at [jlhinton@wcu.edu](mailto:jlhinton@wcu.edu).

Each of the following areas will be used to select majors:

1. Pre-Recreational Therapy Major status (PREC)
  - a. **Required:** Applicants must be accepted at Western Carolina University and pre-recreational therapy majors (PREC) before the application deadline.
  - b. **Recommended:** Prospective applicants should declare the pre-major as early as possible so that they can take advantage of advising and club activities.
2. Enrollment in RTH 200: Foundations of Recreational Therapy and BIOL 291: Anatomy and Physiology I
  - a. **Required:** Students must have completed, or be concurrently enrolled in, RTH 200 and BIOL 291 before applying to the Program. Students can transfer these courses in from another college or university. A passing grade (S/ Satisfactory) or a letter grade (C or above) will be accepted for these courses whether taken at Western Carolina University or elsewhere.
3. Grade Point Average
  - a. **Required:** A 2.5 GPA is required to apply for the major
  - b. **Recommended:** Students with higher GPAs will be given more consideration.
4. Experience working with people with disabilities
  - a. **Required:** Due to COVID-19, some students may not have been able to get the typically required minimum of 10 hours of documented service (paid or unpaid) with individuals with disabilities. *For Fall 2020 applications, documented service is not required to apply to the Program.* It is, however, still highly valued, as it is a helpful exercise for students to understand their fit for the Program.
  - b. **Recommended:** There will be positive consideration made for students who have experience. Generally, more hours of experience (11-20, and 21+) will be given greater consideration in the initial application review process. Required class experiences for RTH or other majors will be accepted if appropriate to the goal of working in RT. Hours can be counted up to three years prior to September 15<sup>th</sup> at maximum (i.e., for applications in fall 2020, students can have hours from 9/15/2017-9/15/2020
5. Involvement in the student Recreational Therapy Association.
  - a. **Recommended:** Students should track involvement in the student association. Participation is highly valued. There is not a minimum expectation for consideration. Please do not submit items in this area that have already been submitted for #4: Experience working with people with disabilities.

After an initial review of applications, RTH faculty will conduct small group interviews with finalists to make decisions about the final candidates for the major. Acceptance letters will be distributed before Advising Day in October. Students will have 3 days to accept or decline admittance to the program. If an opening becomes available, faculty will consult a waitlist for the Program.