The M.S. program requires a minimum of 30 graduate credits and a 3.00 (B) grade-point average for graduation. The master's degree must be completed within eight years from matriculation as a degree student.

Prerequisites for graduate students who do not have an undergraduate degree in RPTM typically range from 3 to 9 credits, depending on the student’s background and experience. Prerequisites for incoming graduate students with undergraduate majors in RPTM range from 0 to 6 credits. Incoming graduate students with undergraduate degrees in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management from Penn State are assumed to have met all prerequisite requirements. The graduate program director determines prerequisites for all incoming students.

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Requirements. (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies)

Students who wish to pursue a Ph.D. degree but do not have an M.S. degree will complete a thesis and earn a master’s degree in the process of working toward the doctorate.

The doctoral program builds on the master’s program to achieve depth in scholarship and research. Students who have not completed a data-based thesis as part of their master’s degree will be required to do so during the first three semesters as a doctoral student. The general requirements of the degree, sequentially, are:

1. course work,
2. qualifying examination by the third semester,
3. comprehensive examination (written and oral),
4. dissertation proposal presentation, and
5. final defense of dissertation.

Between the qualifying examination and completion of the degree program, a Ph.D. student must have attended Penn State in residence a minimum of two semesters over a twelve-month period. (This may include the semester in which the qualifying exam is taken.) Students have a limit of eight years after the qualifying exam to complete the doctoral program. A 3.00 (B) average is required for graduation.

Prerequisites for graduate students who do not have an undergraduate degree in RPTM typically range from 3 to 9 credits, depending on the student’s background and experience. Prerequisites for incoming graduate students with undergraduate majors in RPTM range from 0 to 6 credits. Incoming graduate students with undergraduate degrees in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management from Penn State are assumed to have met all prerequisite requirements. The graduate program director determines prerequisites for all incoming students.

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1 The master’s thesis and oral defense may be used for the qualifying examination for continuing students.

**Dual-Titles**

**Dual-Title M.S. and Ph.D. in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment**

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-208-dual-title-graduate-degree-programs).
Admission Requirements

Students must apply and be admitted to the graduate program in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and The Graduate School before they can apply for admission to the dual-title degree program. After admission to their primary program, students must apply for admission to and meet the admissions requirements of the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment dual-title program. Refer to the Admission Requirements section of the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment Bulletin page (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/human-dimensions-natural-resources-environment). Doctoral students must be admitted into the dual-title degree program in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment prior to taking the qualifying examination in their primary graduate program.

Degree Requirements

To qualify for the dual-title degree, students must satisfy the degree requirements for the degree they are enrolled in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management. In addition, students must complete the degree requirements for the dual-title in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment, listed on the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment Bulletin page (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/human-dimensions-natural-resources-environment).

The qualifying examination committee for the dual-title Ph.D. degree will be composed of Graduate Faculty from Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and must include at least one Graduate Faculty member from the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment program. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’ Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. There will be a single qualifying examination, containing elements of both Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment. Dual-title graduate degree students may require an additional semester to fulfill requirements for both areas of study and, therefore, the qualifying examination may be delayed one semester beyond the normal period allowable.

In addition to the general Graduate Council requirements for dissertation committees (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcacad/gcad-600/phd-dissertation-committee-formation), the dissertation committee of a Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment dual-title Ph.D. student must include at least one member of the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment Graduate Faculty and at least one member of the Graduate Faculty in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’ Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. If the chair of the dissertation committee is not also a member of the Graduate Faculty in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment, the member of the committee representing Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment must be appointed as co-chair. The Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment representative on the student’s dissertation committee will develop questions for and participate in the evaluation of the comprehensive examination.

Students in the dual-title program are required to write and orally defend a dissertation on a topic that is approved in advance by their dissertation committee and reflects their original research and education in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment. Upon completion of the doctoral dissertation, the candidate must pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense) to earn the Ph.D. degree. The dissertation must be accepted by the dissertation committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

Student Aid

Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-funding) section of The Graduate School’s website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gsad/gsad-500/gsad-501-credit-loads-graduate-assistants) set by The Graduate School.

Courses

Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management (RPTM) Course List (https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/graduate/rptm)

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of research design and methods.
2. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the social psychological, philosophical, and social bases of leisure behavior.
3. Analyze and synthesize the literature from a variety of perspectives and disciplines in a specific area of recreation/leisure, park, or tourism management.
4. Integrate and apply transdisciplinary concepts of recreation/leisure, park, or tourism to contemporary recreation/leisure, park, or tourism management issues.
5. Design and implement independent research to address a contemporary issue in recreation/leisure, park, or tourism management.
6. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of and ability to interpret the results of quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques.
7. Effectively communicate diverse and contrary perspectives regarding recreation, park, tourism or leisure management orally and in writing.

Contact

Campus

University Park

Graduate Program Head

Peter Newman

Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) or Professor-in-Charge (PIC)

Birgitta Baker

Priscilla Jean Cetnar

801 F Ford Building

University Park PA 16802

pjc25@psu.edu

(814) 863-6599

Program Website

View (http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/rptm/graduate)