RECREATION, PARK, AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT

Graduate Program Head
Peter Newman

Program Code
RPTM

Campus(es)
University Park (Ph.D., M.S.)

Degrees Conferred
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
Master of Science (M.S.)
Dual-Title Ph.D. and M.S. in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and Transdisciplinary Research on Environment and Society
Dual-Title Ph.D. in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and Social Data Analytics

The Graduate Faculty
View (https://secure.gradsch.psu.edu/gpms/?searchType=fac&prog=RPTM)

The graduate program is designed to prepare students for administrative, supervisory, research, and teaching positions in public and private recreation and park systems, in colleges and universities, in voluntary agencies and institutions, and in commercial ventures.

The program is oriented to meet the specific needs and research interests of the student. Students may pursue interests in the community, including public park and recreation systems, voluntary agencies, and private commercial enterprises; tourism; institution and community-oriented therapeutic settings concerned with many different disabilities and utilizing a variety of activity modalities; park planning, resource management, interpretive services, outdoor education, and outdoor recreation services.

Admission Requirements
Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

Scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) are NOT required for admission to the M.S. and Ph.D. programs.

For admission to the graduate program, an applicant must hold either (1) a bachelor’s degree from a U.S. regionally accredited institution or (2) a postsecondary degree that is equivalent to a U.S. baccalaureate degree earned from an officially recognized degree-granting international institution. Applicants from majors other than recreation and parks are welcome to apply; however, additional course work is required. Students with a 3.00 junior/senior average (on a 4.00 scale) and with appropriate course backgrounds will be considered for admission.

Degree Requirements
Master of Science (M.S.)
Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/)

The master’s program is designed for students who wish to continue their studies at the doctoral level at Penn State.

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 Policies. (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/)

A master’s degree is required to apply to the Ph.D. program.

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,¹
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.

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 TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH ON ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY
Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (https://
The doctoral students in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management interested in having a degree that reflects interdisciplinary training in an array of tools, techniques, and methodologies for social data analytics, may apply to pursue a dual-title Ph.D. in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and Social Data Analytics.

Social data analytics is the integration of social scientific, computational, informational, statistical, and visual analytic approaches to the analysis of large or complex data that arise from human interaction. The dual-title Ph.D. program provides additional training with the aim of providing scientists with the skills required to expand the field of social data analytics, creatively answer important social scientific questions, and communicate effectively with both academic and non-academic audiences.

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. Students must apply for admission to and meet the admissions requirements of the Transdisciplinary Research on Environment and Society dual-title program. Refer to the Admission Requirements section of the Transdisciplinary Research on Environment and Society Bulletin page (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/transdisciplinary-research-environment-society/). Application materials include the following:

- Statement of purpose
- Curriculum vitae
- Three letters of recommendation from professionals who can attest to the applicant’s preparation and ability to successfully complete the dual-title program
- Three years of professional experience in work that involves the application of quantitative social data analytics

Students interested in having a degree that reflects interdisciplinary training in an array of tools, techniques, and methodologies for social data analytics, may apply to pursue a dual-title Ph.D. in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and Social Data Analytics. Students must apply and be admitted to the dual-title degree program in Social Data Analytics prior to the completion of the fourth semester of graduate study.

Additional admissions requirements are listed in the Admissions Requirements section of the Social Data Analytics Bulletin page (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/social-data-analytics/)

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
To qualify for the dual-title degree, students must satisfy the requirements of the Ph.D. in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management, listed above. In addition, students pursuing the dual-title Ph.D. in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and Social Data Analytics must complete the degree requirements for the dual-title Social Data Analytics Ph.D., listed on the Social Data Analytics Bulletin page (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/social-data-analytics/).

The qualifying examination in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management satisfies the qualifying exam requirement for the dual-title degree program in Social Data Analytics.

Students must apply and be admitted to the graduate program in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and The Graduate School before they can be admitted to a dual-title degree program. Applicants interested in the dual-title degree program may note their interest in their applications to Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management. Students admitted to the Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management will be admitted to the dual-title program in Social Data Analytics upon the recommendation of a Social Data Analytics Program faculty member in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management. Students must apply and be admitted to the dual-title degree program in Social Data Analytics prior to the completion of the fourth semester of graduate study.

Additional admissions requirements are listed in the Admissions Requirements section of the Social Data Analytics Bulletin page (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/social-data-analytics/)

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 Ph.D. committee and reflects their original research and education in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and Transdisciplinary Research on Environment and Society. 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 Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

DUAL-TITLE PH.D. IN RECREATION, PARK, AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL DATA ANALYTICS
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-208-dual-titles/).

The doctoral students in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management interested in having a degree that reflects interdisciplinary training in an array of tools, techniques, and methodologies for social data analytics, may apply to pursue a dual-title Ph.D. in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and Social Data Analytics.

Social data analytics is the integration of social scientific, computational, informational, statistical, and visual analytic approaches to the analysis of large or complex data that arise from human interaction. The dual-title Ph.D. program provides additional training with the aim of providing scientists with the skills required to expand the field of social data analytics, creatively answer important social scientific questions, and communicate effectively with both academic and non-academic audiences.

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. Students must apply for admission to and meet the admissions requirements of the Transdisciplinary Research on Environment and Society dual-title program. Refer to the Admission Requirements section of the Transdisciplinary Research on Environment and Society Bulletin page (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/transdisciplinary-research-environment-society/). Application materials include the following:

- Statement of purpose
- Curriculum vitae
- Three letters of recommendation from professionals who can attest to the applicant’s preparation and ability to successfully complete the dual-title program
- Three years of professional experience in work that involves the application of quantitative social data analytics

Students interested in having a degree that reflects interdisciplinary training in an array of tools, techniques, and methodologies for social data analytics, may apply to pursue a dual-title Ph.D. in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and Social Data Analytics. Students must apply and be admitted to the dual-title degree program in Social Data Analytics prior to the completion of the fourth semester of graduate study.

Additional admissions requirements are listed in the Admissions Requirements section of the Social Data Analytics Bulletin page (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/social-data-analytics/)

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
To qualify for the dual-title degree, students must satisfy the requirements of the Ph.D. in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management, listed above. In addition, students pursuing the dual-title Ph.D. in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and Social Data Analytics must complete the degree requirements for the dual-title Social Data Analytics Ph.D., listed on the Social Data Analytics Bulletin page (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/social-data-analytics/).

The qualifying examination in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management satisfies the qualifying exam requirement for the dual-title degree program in Social Data Analytics.

Students must apply and be admitted to the graduate program in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and The Graduate School before they can be admitted to a dual-title degree program. Applicants interested in the dual-title degree program may note their interest in their applications to Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management. Students admitted to the Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management will be admitted to the dual-title program in Social Data Analytics upon the recommendation of a Social Data Analytics Program faculty member in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management. Students must apply and be admitted to the dual-title degree program in Social Data Analytics prior to the completion of the fourth semester of graduate study.

Additional admissions requirements are listed in the Admissions Requirements section of the Social Data Analytics Bulletin page (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/social-data-analytics/)

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 Ph.D. committee and reflects their original research and education in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and Transdisciplinary Research on Environment and Society. 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 Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

DUAL-TITLE PH.D. IN RECREATION, PARK, AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL DATA ANALYTICS
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-208-dual-titles/).
committee and reflects their original research and education in both Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management and Social Data Analytics. 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 Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

Dual-title students may be expected to regularly attend regular research seminars in the SODA program.

**Minor**

A graduate minor is available in any approved graduate major or dual-title program. The default requirements for a graduate minor are stated in Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/) and GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/), depending on the type of degree the student is pursuing:

- GCAC-611 Minor - Research Doctorate (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/gcac-611-minor-research-doctorate/)
- GCAC-641 Minor - Research Master’s (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/gcac-641-minor-research-masters/)
- GCAC-709 Minor - Professional Doctorate (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-700/gcac-709-professional-doctoral-minor/)
- GCAC-741 Minor - Professional Master’s (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-700/gcac-741-masters-minor-professional/)

**Student Aid**

Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-funding/) section of The Graduate School’s website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gsad/gsad-900/gsad-901-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 recreation, park, and tourism management issues.
2. Analyze and synthesize the literature from a variety of perspectives and disciplines in a specific area recreation, park, and tourism management.

3. Integrate and apply transdisciplinary concepts of recreation, park, and tourism management to contemporary issues in the field.
4. Design and implement independent research to address a contemporary issue in recreation, park, and tourism management.
5. Effectively communicate diverse and contrary perspectives regarding recreation, park, and tourism management orally and in writing.

**Contact**

**Campus**

University Park

**Graduate Program Head**

Peter Newman

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

Derrick Taff

**Program Contact**

Stephanie Valente

801 F Ford Building

University Park PA 16802

suv9@psu.edu

(814) 863-6599

**Program Website**

View (https://hhd.psu.edu/rptm/graduate/phd-program-recreation-park-and-tourism-management/)