RECREATION, PARK, AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT, B.S. (ABINGTON)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: Abington

Program Description
Not all options are available at every campus. Contact the campus you are interested in attending to determine which options are offered.

The program prepares students for supervisory and administrative positions with park systems, environmental centers, commercial recreation and tourism agencies, golf courses, hospitals and assisted living facilities, private voluntary agencies, schools and colleges, and other commercial, nonprofit, and public organizations that provide recreation and leisure services. The program combines a broad educational foundation with specific courses designed to accommodate career interests in recreation, park, and tourism management. The program helps students gain the theoretical, managerial, technical, and experiential skills they need to become the next generation of leaders in the field. Students work full-time for twelve weeks with professionals in a setting of their choice.

Four (4) options are offered:

1. Commercial Recreation and Tourism Management
2. Community Recreation Management
3. Professional Golf Management
4. Outdoor Recreation Management

Commercial Recreation and Tourism Management Option
Available at the following campuses: Abington, Greater Allegheny, University Park, World Campus

This option focuses on management in the private/commercial, non-profit, and public sectors of recreation/leisure services. The private/commercial focus will be of interest to students seeking careers in a variety of commercial settings such as resorts; theme parks, convention centers; sports and fitness facilities, including arenas and stadiums; tourism promotion/planning agencies; and employee recreation departments within corporations. This focus will also appeal to students wishing to become entrepreneurs.

Community Recreation Management Option
Available at the following campuses: Abington, Greater Allegheny, University Park

For those interested in the community, public, or non-profit sectors, the Community Recreation Management Option prepares students for positions within municipal, state, and federal government agencies; recreation divisions of the armed services; YMCA agencies; United Way agencies; scouting organizations; university-affiliated units such as student unions, intramural and alumni services; and other non-profit organizations.

Professional Golf Management Option
Available at the following campuses: University Park

Accredited by the Professional Golfers’ Association of America, the Professional Golf Management Option prepares students for careers in the golf industry. Students will be prepared to assess leadership and management principles including customer service, interpersonal skills, business communication, conflict resolution, time management, negotiating, project management, marketing, and community relations. In addition to the core curriculum, the program has a strong business focus and is drawn from several nationally recognized academic disciplines on campus.

Outdoor Recreation Management Option
Available at the following campuses: University Park

This option prepare students for careers in Outdoor Experiential Leadership (OEL) and/or Park Management and Environmental Interpretation (PMEI). The OEL track emphasizes outdoor experiential leadership, including wilderness experiences and personal development. The PMEI track focuses on natural and cultural history environmental interpretation and education and the social science of conservation. The third track provides a flexible route for students to combine parts of the OEL and PMEI to create a meaningful personalized set of courses that could include study abroad experiences and prepare students for international contexts of recreation management. The outdoor recreation option is of interest to students seeking employment in a variety of recreation and park venues (local, state, and national from urban to wilderness) offering outdoor activities and personal development to the public.

What is Recreation, Park and Tourism Management?

Faculty in Recreation, Park and Tourism Management (RPTM) teach and conduct research and outreach in the areas of recreation, park management, golf management and tourism to address how humans derive benefits from leisure activities. RPTM faculty teach and conduct research in variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives to better understand the natural, psychological, social, economic, and cultural systems that influence human behavior in the context of recreation, parks and tourism. Our interdisciplinary, systems approach enables us to address issues of human well being, and sustainable development through curricula and innovative research programs. Our mission is to transform human health and well-being through engaging people in recreation, park, tourism and leisure activities.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT RECREATION, PARK, AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT (http://hhd.psu.edu/rptm/)

You Might Like This Program If...

Our world-class faculty members help make a difference for you by:

• Engaging students in hands-on learning.
• Providing opportunities for international experiences.
• Encouraging involvement in and out of the classroom and in professional organizations.

Our mission is to transform human health and well-being through engaging people in recreation, park, tourism, and leisure opportunities. We aim to educate and inspire you to make contributions to society, and our conceptual approach serves as the foundation of what and
how we teach. In particular, we integrate topics such as diversity, environmental sustainability, human development, health and well-being, social innovation and entrepreneurship, community, and economic development.

Entrance to Major
Students who have completed 29.1 credits with a 2.00 cumulative grade-point average are eligible for entrance into the major. First-year students are admitted directly into the Golf Management option at the University Park campus only. In addition to the University's academic requirements, each student admitted to the Golf Management option must have a playing proficiency represented by a minimum golf handicap of 12 or lower. This must be certified in writing by a PGA member or golf coach.

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>2-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>67-74</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

0-4 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes 0-4 credits of General Education courses: 0-4 credits of GQ courses.

Per Senate Policy 83.80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. RPTM requires students to complete 24 credits for the major through courses taken at University Park. Courses taken at other Penn State campuses may not be counted toward this 24 credit minimum. For more information, check the Recommended Academic Plan for this major.

General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)
- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains
- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements
First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements
- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major
To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
RPTM 120  Leisure and Human Behavior  3  
RPTM 220  Sustainability, Society, and Well-being  3  
RPTM 236  Leadership and Group Dynamics in Recreation Services  3  
RPTM 277  Inclusive Leisure Services  3  
RPTM 390  Political and Legal Aspects of Recreation Services  3  
RPTM 410  Marketing of Recreation Services  3  
RPTM 433W  Program Evaluation and Research in Recreation Services  3  
RPTM 456  Programming in Recreation Services  3  

Requirements for the Option
Select an option  43-50

Requirements for the Option
Commercial Recreation and Tourism Management Option (46-50 credits)
Available at the following campuses: Abington, Greater Allegheny, University Park, World Campus

Code  Title  Credits
Prescribed Courses
Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better
RPTM 101  Introduction to Recreation Services  3
RPTM 210  Introduction to Commercial Recreation and Tourism  3
RPTM 300Y  Tourism and Leisure Behavior  3
RPTM 394  Orientation to Internship  1
RPTM 415  Commercial Recreation Management  3
RPTM 495A  Internship in Recreation Services  12

Additional Courses
Select 6-7 courses of the following:  6-7
CAS 283  Communication and Information Technology I  or CMPSC 210  Introduction to Spreadsheets and Databases
RPTM 370  Introduction to Arena Management  or RPTM 436  Recreation Facilities Planning and Management

Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Consult with an adviser to review course recommendations, Minors, 15-18 and Certificate Programs. A minimum of 6 credits must be completed at the 400 level.

Community Recreation Management Option (43-47 credits)
Available at the following campuses: Abington, Greater Allegheny, University Park

Code  Title  Credits
Prescribed Courses
Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better
RPTM 101  Introduction to Recreation Services  3
RPTM 201  Introduction to Community Recreation  3
RPTM 334  Non-profit Recreation Agency Operations  3
RPTM 394  Orientation to Internship  1
RPTM 495A  Internship in Recreation Services  12

Additional Courses
Select 6-7 credits from:  6-7
CAS 283  Communication and Information Technology I  or CMPSC 210  Introduction to Spreadsheets and Databases
RPTM 370  Introduction to Arena Management  1

Professional Golf Management Option (43-45 credits)
Available at the following campuses: University Park

Code  Title  Credits
Prescribed Courses
Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better
BA 303  Marketing  3
BA 304  Management and Organization  3
BLAW 243  Legal Environment of Business  3
HM 336  Hospitality Managerial Accounting  3
HM 466  Human Resource Management in the Hospitality Industry  3
RPTM 100S  Internship in Golf Management  2
RPTM 295A  Internship in Golf Management  3
RPTM 360  Golf Operations Management  3
RPTM 395B  Internship in Golf Management  3
RPTM 495B  Internship in Golf Management  3
RPTM 495C  Internship in Golf Management  3
RPTM 495D  Internship in Golf Management  2
TURF 100  Introduction to Turfgrass Management  3

Additional Courses
ACCTG 211  Financial and Managerial Accounting for Decision Making  3-4
or HM 335
STAT 100  Statistical Concepts and Reasoning  3-4
or STAT 200  Elementary Statistics

Outdoor Recreation Management Option (49-50 credits)
Available at the following campuses: University Park

Code  Title  Credits
Prescribed Courses
Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better
RPTM 101  Introduction to Recreation Services  3
RPTM 230  Recreation Resource Planning and Management  3
RPTM 325  Principles of Environmental Interpretation  3
RPTM 330  Adventure-Based Program Leadership  3
RPTM 394  Orientation to Internship  1
RPTM 435  Internship in Recreation Management  3
RPTM 495A  Internship in Recreation Services  12

Additional Courses
CAS 283  Communication and Information Technology I  or CMPSC 210  Introduction to Spreadsheets and Databases  3-4

Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Select 18 credits in an Outdoor Recreation pathway. Consult with an adviser to review course recommendations and pathways. At least 6 credits in RPTM must be completed at the 400 level (not including core or prescribed courses).
Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

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SUGGESTED ACADEMIC PLAN

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2021-22 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contain suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

Commercial Recreation and Tourism Option: Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management, B.S. at Abington Campus

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 15, 30H, or ESL 15‡</td>
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<td>General Education Course (GS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPTM 101*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>RPTM 210*</td>
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<td>RPTM 120*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course (GA)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GN)</td>
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<td>General Education Course (GQ) ‡</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSU First Year Seminar</td>
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<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
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<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GQ) ‡</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>RPTM 220*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPTM 236*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>RPTM 390*</td>
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<td>RPTM 277*</td>
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<td>RPTM 300Y</td>
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<td>General Education Course (GH)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Third Year</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAS 100, 100A, 100B, or 100C</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CAS 283 or CMPSC 203</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPTM 456*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>RPTM 410*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPTM 370 or 435*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>RPTM 394*</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Course in Consultation with Academic Adviser</td>
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<td>Supporting Course in Consultation with Academic Adviser</td>
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| Total | 15 | 14 |
### Fourth Year

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<th>Fall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202D, 202A, 202B, or 202C (202D Preferred)\‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>RPTM 495A*</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPTM 415†</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPTM 433W*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Course in Consultation with Academic Adviser\†</td>
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<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td><strong>120-121</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major  
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education  
‡ Course is an Entrance to Major requirement  
# Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement  
† Supporting Course List (https://hhd.psu.edu/rptm/undergraduate/courses/)  

**University Requirements and General Education Notes:**

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

**Advising Notes:**

Within the 30 credits of required General Education Domain courses, students must take 6 credits of **Integrative Studies courses** (Inter-domain or Linked courses). If you need additional clarification, consult with your academic adviser.
## Community Recreation Management Option: Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management, B.S. at Abington Campus

**First Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 15, 30H, or ESL 15†</td>
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<td>General Education Course (GS)</td>
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**Second Year**

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<th>Credits</th>
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<td>CMPSC 203 (or other General Education Course GQ)‡</td>
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<td>RPTM 220*</td>
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<td>RPTM 334*</td>
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**Third Year**

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<tr>
<td>CAS 100, 100A, 100B, or 100C</td>
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<td>RPTM 410*</td>
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<td>RPTM 456*</td>
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<td>RPTM 394*</td>
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<td>RPTM 370 or 435*</td>
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**Fourth Year**

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<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>RPTM 495A*</td>
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<td>RPTM 433W*</td>
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</table>

**Total Credits 120**

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‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

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W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

**Advising Notes:**

Within the 30 credits of required General Education Domain courses, students must take 6 credits of **Integrative Studies courses** (Inter-domain or Linked courses). If you need additional clarification, consult with your academic adviser.

**Career Paths**

Four options are offered to help prepare students for management positions in public or private agencies at the federal, state, and local levels. The options offered are:

1. Commercial Recreation and Tourism Management
2. Community Recreation Management
3. Professional Golf Management
4. Outdoor Recreation Management

Management positions include, but are not limited to resorts, event management businesses, golf courses, golf industry businesses, park systems, environmental centers, university intramural and sport club programs, recreation services for the armed forces, and health care facilities. Our multidisciplinary graduate program is designed to educate students about research, theory, and practice related to leisure and recreation as experienced at the individual, societal, and cross-cultural levels. Both the M.S. program and Ph.D. program help students develop an understanding of the social, environmental, psychological, and

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Supporting Course in Consultation with Academic Adviser

1 Supporting Course List [https://hhd.psu.edu/rptm/undergraduate/courses/](https://hhd.psu.edu/rptm/undergraduate/courses/)

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University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

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Career Paths

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economic aspects of human behavior in recreation and leisure activities and also allow students to concentrate their studies in:

- Recreation/tourism management and marketing
- Commercial recreation and tourism
- Outdoor recreation and protected area management
- Community recreation
- General leisure behavior

**Careers**

A degree from RPTM is suited for you if you have career interests in supervisory and administrative positions in tourism & event management, entertainment, sport & fitness venue management, professional golf management, community recreation, non-profit administration, outdoor experiential leadership, park management, environmental interpretation, natural resource management and youth & senior recreation services.

[MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE RECREATION, PARK, AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM](https://hhd.psu.edu/rptm/undergraduate/career-opportunities/)

**Opportunities for Graduate Studies**

Whether you are looking for a master's degree or your doctorate in RPTM, our multi-disciplinary graduate program is designed to educate students about research, theory and practice related to recreation, parks, tourism and leisure. Both the master of science (M.S.) and the doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) programs help you develop an understanding of the social, environmental, psychological and economic aspects of human behavior in relation to the experience and delivery of recreation, park, tourism and leisure activities.

[MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES](https://hhd.psu.edu/rptm/graduate/rptm-graduate-career-opportunities/)

**Professional Resources**

- Professional Golfers' Association of America (https://pga.org)
- Kurt Hahn Consortium for Values and Experiential Learning (https://hhd.psu.edu/rptm/Kurt-Hahn-Consortium-for-Values-and-Experiential-Learning/)
- Denali National Park and Preserve (https://hhd.psu.edu/rptm/research/research-labs-and-initiatives/protected-areas-research-collaborative-parc/soundscapes/)
- Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (https://www.shaverscreek.org/)
- National Park and Recreation Association (https://nrpa.org)
- Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (https://prps.org)

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**World Campus**

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