

PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
<http://rht.gmu.edu/prls/>

Name and description of the field

Parks and Outdoor Recreation graduates plan and implement community recreation and sport programs, services, and events; lead outdoor adventure activities; teach about the environment using experiential learning techniques; and manage natural and cultural resources and their recreational uses. Fieldwork, internship, and employment opportunities abound in Northern Virginia, Maryland, and the greater Washington (DC) metropolitan area.

Students in this major will be exposed to the various facets of this dynamic and rapidly growing field. Our graduates are prepared to make a **real** difference – informing policy, promoting economic development, advocating stewardship of natural resources, encouraging inclusive community service and lifelong recreation participation, and working to enhance the quality of life of all individuals, families, and communities at the local, national, and international levels.

What special skills or abilities are needed to succeed in this major?

- Excellent communication skills
- Respect for the natural environment
- Understanding of economic and political forces
- Understanding and appreciation of both public and private sector roles
- Ability to teach and demonstrate intellectual and/or physical skills
- Ability to develop programs/activities for targeted populations
- Computer literacy
- Analytical and evaluative skills

If both B.A. and B.S. degrees are offered, what are the differences in career/graduate school opportunities?

Only the B.S. is offered.

Is a Minor available? Yes.

Sampling of careers in Parks and Outdoor Recreation: See department website <http://rht.gmu.edu/prls/career/>

What other resources should students consult for more information?

- National Recreation and Parks Association, Arlington, Virginia
- American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Reston, Virginia
- Virginia Recreation and Park Association, Richmond, Virginia and comparable state societies or associations
- Virginia Department of Conservation
- Recreation branches or divisions of the National Park Service, National Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Fish and Wildlife Services, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and local park and recreation departments, youth service agencies, and private and commercial recreation providers
- Career Services Library, 348 SUB I: Take a copy of the **Where to Start . . .** resource list, which lists printed and online resources to learn more about internships and occupations in Health & Fitness and Recreation Resources.
- At Career Services, register with the PatriotJobWeb computerized database system to access internships in the field. <http://careers.gmu.edu/patriotjobweb>
- Call (703) 993-2370 to meet with a Career Counselor to discuss employment information and options.

Career Library Resources –Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/careerlibrary/wheretostart/rht.pdf> to see resources located in the in Career Services library, SUB I, 348

Major, Career & Job Hunting Information Online (links to the academic department, associations and other useful sites) – Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/onlineresources/rht.htm>

EXPLORING MAJORS

What kinds of practical experiences are recommended to explore Health, Fitness, and Recreation Resources further?

- Part-time and summer employment or volunteer service
- Experience in a variety of settings with many different age, race, and ethnic groups and both genders
- Any experience working with the public which requires independence, initiative and responsibility
- Internships/cooperative education positions with health, fitness organizations or national, regional/county parks systems.

Whom should students contact for further information?

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309 Prince William I
703-993-2068

Academic Advising Center
304 SUB I
703-993-2470

Ken Guerrant
Career Services
348 SUB I
703-993-2370