

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

D. HENRY WATTS SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

The Department of Sport and Recreation Professions offers two majors: Sport and Recreation Management and Recreational Therapy. Both majors focus on improving lives through the provision and management of meaningful leisure-time programs and therapy. Professionals work in a variety of settings such as sport facilities, public parks and recreation, rehabilitation centers, travel and tourism, hospitals, not-for-profit organizations like the YMCA, commercial agencies such as theme parks and fitness centers, and long-term care facilities. The principles of human motivation and satisfaction, current trends, and a philosophy of practice combine to provide programs and services that improve lives.

THE PROGRAM

The primary purpose of the program is to provide both classroom *and* practical learning experiences in the study of sport, recreation, and leisure. Nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Park, Recreation, Tourism, and Related Professions, the Department supports students studying one of two majors: Sport and Recreation Management and Recreational Therapy. The curriculum infuses practical learning opportunities with outside agencies. Classroom work is reinforced through “real-world” experiences that allow students to hone their career preferences. The program is nationally recognized for its assessment, work with alumni and professionals, and for ensuring that all graduates are eligible to sit for the examination to become either a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist or a Certified Park and Recreation Professional.

THE MAJORS

The Department of Sport and Recreation Professions requires a five-course “core” which provides the foundation for each student to pursue a major in Sport and Recreation Management or Recreational Therapy. The majors require eight additional specialization courses. All students are required to complete a final semester capstone internship. This semester-long internship allows the student to earn “real-world” experience and apply their coursework with an agency locally, nationally, or worldwide.

THE COURSES

VWU classes are small and interactive. Sport and Recreation Professions majors complete courses in Sport and Recreation Program and Event Principles, Facility Management, and choose from individual career interests such as Commercial Sport and Recreation, Campus Recreation Administration, Outdoor Recreation, and Ropes Course Management. Recreational Therapy majors study Disabilities, the Recreational Therapy Process, Management and Organization, Analysis and Assessment, and select courses in areas such as psychology, anatomy, and physiology.

INTERNSHIPS

Working with a faculty advisor to select an internship that mirrors their interests, all students complete a final-semester internship with an employer of their choice. This experience gives the student a competitive edge as they transition from college to the workplace or graduate studies. Students also have an opportunity to complete a Junior Internship—another practical experience to enhance their skills and resume.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Graduates secure employment in traditional recreation agencies such as the YMCA, state park and recreation departments, and campus recreation administration. They have also been employed in administration, teaching, sales, health care, consulting, law enforcement and more. Some students enter graduate school to study fields as diverse as education, sport management, theology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech and language pathology.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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