

**EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies**

**Graduate Program**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The graduate program in Recreation and Leisure Studies at East Carolina University offers degree programs leading to (1) Master of Science (MS) degree in Recreation and Leisure Facilities and Services Administration (RFSA) or (2) Recreational Therapy Administration (RTA). We accept students from a variety of academic disciplines, however, there may be a need for some students to make up deficiencies. The graduate director will make this determination upon examining an applicant's transcript.

The graduate program in Recreation and Leisure Studies is designed to prepare students to assume professional administrative/management, education, and research oriented positions. These types of positions may be found within the broad spectrum of public and private recreation, parks, and leisure service delivery, as well as the tourism industry, recreational therapy, and related allied health management positions.

East Carolina University's prime location makes it a great place to study recreation, leisure and recreational therapy service outcomes. National Seashores, National Forests, National Fish and Wildlife Refuges, coastal and sound estuaries, mass tourism destinations, and exceptional medical and rehabilitation facilities all provide outstanding opportunities for research and applied learning for a variety of topics related to recreation, leisure, and recreational therapy interests.

A variety of financial options and assistance exist for qualified applicants, including graduate assistantships that pay students a monthly stipend. Highly qualified applicants are also eligible for out of state tuition waivers. Additionally, many graduate students are supported by ongoing research projects that provide wages as well as opportunities for thesis work. Interested applicants should complete the Graduate Assistant (GA) application included in this booklet or on-line, and inquire about current availability with the graduate director.

To ensure consideration of your application, please carefully follow the instructions provided in the application packet. If you have questions concerning graduate studies in Recreation and Leisure Studies at East Carolina University, please call (252) 328-5555 or electronic mail: [rcls@mail.ecu.edu](mailto:rcls@mail.ecu.edu)

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must possess a grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale on all undergraduate work or a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in either the undergraduate major work or all work taken during the senior year. In addition, students must possess satisfactory entrance examination scores on either the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the general test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), where applicable.

The following must be completed to apply for admission:

- Obtain and complete an ECU Self-Managed Application Packet (please read completely and follow instructions carefully). Go to: [www.ecu.edu/gradschool/ecuhtm/files/appinfo.htm](http://www.ecu.edu/gradschool/ecuhtm/files/appinfo.htm)
- Submit official transcripts of all prior undergraduate and graduate work.
- Submit official standardized test scores for either the MAT or the general test of the GRE and the TOEFL, if necessary.

## **GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

Certificate programs are available in:  
Aquatic Management  
Aquatic Therapy

## **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS\***

The RCLS Graduate Program requires 36-39 semester hours of academic credit, depending upon the student's pursuit of a thesis or non-thesis option and whether the student has prior experience and/or certification in the field.

### **REQUIRED CORE (12 semester hours.)**

**RCLS 6000** - *Philosophical and Social Foundations*

**RCLS 6100** - *Risk Management and Legal Liability*

**RCLS 6110** - *Research Methods*

**RCLS 6120** - *Seminar in RCLS*

## **RECREATION AND LEISURE FACILITY AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (RFSA) DEGREE**

### **RFSA REQUIREMENTS (12 semester hours.)**

**RCLS 6210** – *Management & Program Development in Recreation & Leisure Svcs.*

**RCLS 6220** – *Managing Commercial and Tourism Industry Leisure Services*

**MKTG 6162** - *Marketing Management*  
**MGMT 6102** - *Comparative Management*

**RECREATIONAL SPORTS MANAGEMENT CONCENTRATION (12 semester hours)**

**RCLS 6210** - *Management and Program Development in Recreation & Leisure Studies*

**RCLS 6005** – *Recreational Sports and Activities Management*

**RCLS 5111** – *Recreational Facility Management*

**ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**RCLS 5100** – *Aquatic Facility Management*

**RCLS 5101** – *Waterfront Facility Operations*

**RCLS 6220** – *Managing Commercial and Tourism Industry Leisure Services*

**EXSS 6445** – *Sports Psychology Same as PSYC 6445*

**PADM 6120** – *Public Budgeting and Finance*

**RFSA Thesis Option (12 semester hours.)**

**OMGT 6123** - *Quantitative Methods*

**MKTG 6642** - *Marketing Research*

**RCLS 7000** - *Thesis: RFSA*

**RFSA Non-Thesis Option (15 semester hours.)**

**RCLS 6501** – *Capstone Experience in Recreation & Leisure Services Administration*

**OMGT 6123** - *Quantitative Methods*

**Plus 9 semester hours of advised electives**

**RECREATIONAL THERAPY ADMINISTRATION (RTA) DEGREE\*\***

**RTA REQUIREMENTS (12 semester hours.)**

**RCLS 6310** - *Program Development and Management in RT*

**RCLS 6320** - *Client Assessment, Evaluation, and Documentation*

**RCLS 6330** - *Administrative Aspects of Therapeutic Recreation*

**COHE 6600** - *Management of Health Care Operations*

**RTA Thesis Option (12 semester hours.)**

**BIOS 6021** - *Biostatistics for Health Professionals I*

**BIOS 6022** - *Biostatistics for Health Professionals II*

**RCLS 7000** - *Thesis: RTA*

**RTA Non-Thesis Option (15 semester hours.)**

**RCLS 6502** – *Capstone Experience in Recreational Therapy*

**BIOS 6021** - *Biostatistics for Health Professionals I*

**Plus 9 semester hours of advised electives**

**RCLS 6990** (*Supervised Field Experience*) will be required of students who do not have approved prior experience, internship, or certification in their specialty area.

*\*The degree requirements above are subject to change and are also flexible to allow for the interests and career goals of individual students.*

*\*\*Recreational Therapy Administration students not currently certified must complete an internship, in addition to the academic degree requirements, in order to qualify to sit for the national and state certification examination to obtain the professional level Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS)/Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (TRS) credential.*

**CURRENT FACULTY AND AREAS OF INTEREST**

**Dr. Nelson L. Cooper**, B.S., North Carolina State University; M.A., East Carolina University; Ph.D., Clemson University. Outcome-based programming; youth development; recreational sports; recreation program evaluation.

**Dr. Cheryl A. Estes**, B.S., M.A., Ph.D., Ohio State University. Leisure philosophy and curriculum; service learning; leadership development; outcome measures for adventure programs.

**Dr. Joseph P. Flood**, B.A., University of Montana; M.A., Ph.D., University of Minnesota. Outdoor recreation and wilderness management; restoration ecology; managing for quality visitor experience opportunities; policy issues in parks and recreation; outdoor leadership; group facilitation; managing conflicts in natural resource settings.

**Dr. Joseph D. Fridgen**, (Chair), B.A. University of Minnesota-Morris; M.A., Ph.D., University of California, Davis. Outdoor recreation; natural resources management; recreation and tourism marketing; environmental and social psychology of recreation and tourism.

**Dr. David P. Loy**, B.S., Georgia Southern University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Georgia. Leisure and coping /adjustment to physical disability; adaptive sports; psychosocial aspects of leisure; measurement and psychometrics.

**Dr. Susan A. McGhee**, B.S., M.S., Florida State University; Ph.D., University of Maryland. Entry-level therapeutic recreation practice competencies; credentialing; distance learning (web-based instruction) in therapeutic recreation academic programs.

**Dr. Robert E. Pfister**, B.S., M.S., Michigan State University; Ph.D., Oregon State University. Community-initiated tourism development; collaborative strategies for rural development; visitor behavior and management; interpretation of natural & cultural resources; environmental and social impacts of recreation and tourism.

**Dr. Carmen V. Russoniello**, B.A., M.S., Eastern Washington University; Ph.D., Gonzaga University. Behavioral medicine and recreational therapy; physiological and psychological aspects of recreation and leisure; the use of biofeedback in recreational therapy.

**Dr. Kindal Shores**, B.S., Ball State University; M.S., Ph.D., Texas A&M University; Community capacity building through leisure services (recreation, culture, tourism). Leisure service provision for diverse populations; social psychology of leisure behavior with an emphasis on personal time style and health outcomes.

**Dr. Thomas K. Skalko**, B.S., M.Ed., University of Georgia; Ph.D., University of Maryland. Cost and utilization of services; physical activity and health; mental health services for children and families; adapted scuba; stress and diving.

**Dr. Hans Vogelsong**, B.S., Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University; M.S., University of Missouri. Coastal zone recreation; recreation and tourism choice behavior; social-psych aspects of outdoor recreation; crowding and carrying capacity; economic impact analysis; facilities maintenance and operations; playground safety; aquatics.

**Dr. Robert C. Wendling**, B.S., M.S., Southern Illinois University at Carbondale; Ph.D., Texas A & M University. Swimming pool injuries & rescues; management of seasonal personnel; recreation and parks master plans; facilities management.

**Dr. Richard Williams**, (Director, Recreational Therapy Degree Program), B.A., M.A., Ed.D., University of Georgia; B.S., Virginia Commonwealth University. Interactive leisure education computer games; humor – theory development and testing related to humor, stress, coping, and control; attitudes toward people with disabilities.

### **Additional Information**

For more information on the East Carolina University Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies Graduate Programs contact:

Recreation and Leisure Studies Graduate Programs  
East Carolina University  
Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies  
174 Minges Coliseum  
Greenville, NC 27858  
(252) 328-5555  
Email: **rcls@mail.ecu.edu**

Learn more about East Carolina University at:

<http://www.ecu.edu>

Additional RCLS Department information and Graduate Assistantship applications can be found at:

<http://www.ecu.edu/rcls>

Download East Carolina University Graduate School applications at:

[http://www.ecu.edu/gradschool/ecuhtm\\_files/appinfo.htm](http://www.ecu.edu/gradschool/ecuhtm_files/appinfo.htm)

Revised 9/22/05