

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services Accreditation Information

The Department of Recreation and Leisure Services Administration (RPL) at Central Michigan University helps put students on a career path in three distinctive areas. Outdoor Recreation majors land jobs at camps, parks and adventure programs. Students in Recreation and Event Management, our newest program, help create and run the shows at theme parks, festivals and various entertainment venues. Therapeutic Recreation students train for national certification in one of the country's top ranked programs.

CMU's program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT). COAPRT accredits baccalaureate programs in parks, recreation, tourism, sport management, event management, therapeutic recreation, and leisure studies offered at regionally accredited institutions within the United States and its territories, and at nationally accredited institutions in Canada and Mexico. The CMU program was the first program in Michigan to attain this recognition and has been continuously accredited since 1982.



According to the Council for Higher Education Accreditation program accreditation is significant because “Degree mills and accreditation mills mislead and harm. In the United States, degrees and certificates from mills may not be acknowledged by other institutions when students seek to transfer or go to graduate school. Employers may not acknowledge degrees and certificates from degree mills when providing tuition assistance for continued education. “Accreditation” from an accreditation mill can mislead students and the public about the quality of an institution. In the presence of degree mills and accreditation mills, students may spend a good deal of money and receive neither an education nor a useable credential.

Annually the RPL Department collects data measuring its progress toward achieving the standards in our national accreditation. This data comes from the following sources; national certification exams, student exit examinations, internship evaluations, and student assignments. The following represents a “snap-shot” of our progress to date.

- 1. Student understanding of the foundational aspects of the recreation profession;**

Therapeutic Recreation: at or above listed standards

Recreation and Event Management: at or above listed standards

Outdoor Recreation: at or above listed standards

2. Student ability to plan, implement and evaluation recreation programs and services:

Therapeutic Recreation: at or above listed standards
 Recreation and Event Management: at or above listed standards
 Outdoor Recreation: at or above listed standards

3. Student understanding of operations, management and administrative practices in recreation:

Therapeutic Recreation: at or above listed standards
 Recreation and Event Management: at or above listed standards
 Outdoor Recreation: at or above listed standards

ACCREDITATION OUTCOME ASSESSMENT
 2017

Program	Measure	Foundations standard 7.01		Programming standard 7.02		Administraton standard 7.03	
		score(s)	attained	score(s)	attained	score(s)	attained
Therapeutic	NCTRC Exam	86.1	Y	85.2	Y	63	Y
	Post-Internship Eval	4.5	Y	4.46	Y	4.5	Y
	Exit exam	52%	N	70%	Y	63.50%	Y
Outdoor	Post-Internship Eval	4.6	Y	4.6	Y	4.6	Y
	Exit Exam	64%	N	84%	Y	52%	N
	Prof. Dev. Log	93%	Y				
	Environ Percep Test	3.9	Y				
Recreation and Event Management	Post-Internship Eval	4.86	Y	4.88	Y	4.71	Y
	Exit Exam	52.40%	N	78.30%	Y	59.40%	N
	CPRP Exam	N/A		N/A		N/A	

Career Data: 89% of students are either employed or in graduate school

92% of alums report being extremely or moderately well prepared