

## Professional Accreditation: The Department of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services



Central Michigan University's programs of *Recreation and Event Management*, *Outdoor and Environmental Recreation* and *Therapeutic Recreation* are all 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.



COAPRT is accredited by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). CHEA requires their accredited organizations to inform the public about "degree and accreditation mills". Information regarding these entities is available in video format [here](#). As stated by CHEA:

*Important Information Regarding Degree Mills Please watch this important video (<http://youtu.be/a1voHNMQDrk>) regarding degree and accreditation mills. According to CHEA, "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 continuing 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." Read more on CHEA's website: <https://www.chea.org/degree-accreditation-mills>*

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Annually the RPL Department Programs collect 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 the annual progress for each accreditation standard.

#### **1. Understanding of the foundational aspects of the related recreation profession.**

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

#### **2. Ability to plan, implement and evaluate related recreation programs and services.**

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

#### **3. Understanding of the operations, management and administrative practices in related recreation agencies.**

- Outdoor and Environmental Recreation: at or above listed standards