

Park and Natural Resource Management Minor - PNRM

The Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences offers an 18-hour minor in Park and Natural Resource Management as a supplement to other majors. The minor focuses on management of natural and cultural resources associated with conserving parks and other protected areas. Land managers and related professionals integrate concepts in the bio-environmental sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and policy and administrative decision-making. Students with an emphasis in this field look forward to careers with both public and private employers in the recreation, park, and tourism fields, including state and federal agencies and private enterprises, non-profit organizations, youth camps, and environmental education programs.

18 credit hours required

Course Requirements – 12 credit hours

RPTS 201 or RPTS 301

RPTS 307

RPTS 316

RPTS 402

Select at least one of the following - 3 or 6 credit hours

RPTS 300

RENR 345

RPTS/RENR 460

May select one of the following – up to 3 credit hours

RENR 375, ARCH 213, ESSM 308, GEOG 202, GEOG 205, WFSC 301, WFSC 303, WFSC 304

Notes:

- RPTS 484 – Internship is available for minors above and beyond the required 18 hours.
- Students must earn a grade of “C” or higher in all courses.

Course Descriptions:

RPTS 201 - Foundations of Recreation, Parks and Tourism. Development of theoretical foundations of recreation, leisure and tourism; professional philosophy, present status, prospects for the future and the role of parks, recreation and tourism in modern society; overview of careers related to these branches of the experience industry. (3). *In-Class and On-Line.*

RPTS 300 – Supervised Field Studies. Survey and application of principles of recreation and parks; selected aspects of park and recreation management in an operational setting under the supervision of an approved agency; preparation and presentation of a comprehensive analysis of a specific problem. (3) *In-Class meetings plus field experience; Maymester park planning and management field courses applicable when offered; approval required.*

RPTS 301 – Leisure and Outdoor Recreation in American Culture. Introduction to the fundamental concepts of leisure and outdoor recreation and how they influence us as individuals, groups and society; critical factors such as self, family, lifespan, ecology, health, work patterns, communications, diversity, popular culture, and consumption are studied in relationship to past, present and future leisure patterns. (3). *In-Class and On-Line.*

RPTS 307 – Methods of Environmental Interpretation. Communication processes and practices between resource managers and publics using or affected by natural, cultural and tourism resource places; principles and techniques of gathering, analyzing and disseminating information through various media, such as exhibits, presentations, publications and programs. (3) *In-Class Only; Spring Only.*

RPTS 316 – Recreational Management of Wildlands. Management and recreational use of wild and wilderness areas and multiple use management areas; systems and techniques for dealing with management problems in outdoor recreation. Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification. (3) *In-Class Only.*

RPTS 402 – Park Planning and Design. Classification of areas according to primary function, location and clientele served; basic park planning principles involving scale, circulation, function and spatial relationships; methodology for establishing planning goals, objectives and planning strategies. Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification. (3) *In-Class Only.*

RPTS/RENR 460 – Nature, Values, and Protected Areas. Writing-intensive discussion of the ways in which protected areas reflect human values about nature; identify stakeholders in and around protected areas, exploring how interests either conflict or coincide; evaluate social, economic, cultural, and ecological trade-offs of different approaches to conservation.

Prerequisite: RPTS 307 or RPTS 316; or 9 hours of credit in natural resource courses. (3) *In-Class Only; Fall Only; Writing-Intensive.*

RENR 345 – Park Ecology and Management. Classroom and hands-on exposure to outdoor recreation resources management in a major national park facing complex challenges; interactive problem-solving to understand natural resources, management strategies and issues related to a park's broader region; includes one intensive week in Smoky Mountains National Park.

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Classification and Approval of the Instructor. (3) *In-Class Meetings Plus Field Experience.*

RENR 375 – Conservation of Natural Resources. Principles and philosophies associated with the development, management and use of natural resources; ecological and social implications inherent in management alternatives involving the natural environment and use of renewable natural resources. (3) *On-Line Only.*

ARCH 213 - Sustainable Architecture. A comprehensive introduction to sustainability concepts, techniques and applications at all levels of the built environment, history of contemporary development of sustainable architecture from 1960 to the present; design strategies, environmental technologies and social factors for reducing building energy needs and carbon foot prints; global applications of sustainable approaches. Prerequisite: Sophomore classification or approval of instructor. (3) *Students may need to submit force request with ARCH advising office; priority is given to majors.*

ESSM 308 - Fundamentals of Environmental Decision-Making. Introduction to environmental issues in natural resources management; fundamental principles and methods for understanding biosocial interdependencies in complex environmental issues; use of computer-aided group decision-making techniques to develop cooperative strategies for resolving local or global environmental issues. Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor. (3)

GEOG 202 - Geography of the Global Village. Geography of the Global Village. Survey of world regions; globalization; environmental problems at multiple scales; human-environment interactions; cultural coherence and diversity; population and settlement; geopolitics; social and economic development; place identification. (3)

GEOG 205 Environmental Change. Systems perspective on important attributes, elements, and connections within earth's physical environment; dynamic nature of environment at multiple spatial and temporal scales. (3)

WFSC 301 - Wildlife and the Changing Environment. Using an ecosystem approach, analyzes changes in the North American environment; effects of these changes on wildlife populations; and reviews areas of major, current concern.

Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification; restricted to non-majors. (3)

WFSC 303 – Wildlife and Natural Resource Policy. Formation and implementation of major natural resource laws and policies that impact land uses. An overview of natural resource laws/policies followed by student presentations of a selected case study. Current natural resource management (including forestry, air, water, wildlife, climate change and energy) programs and institutions are discussed, analyzed and related to current natural resource policy challenges. Prerequisite: RENR 205 or BIOL 357; Junior classification. (3)

WFSC 304 - Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation. Ecological principles used to conserve and manage wildlife and fisheries resources at the individual, population and community levels; topics include conservation biology, species interactions, animal-habitat relationships, population dynamics and harvesting, habitat management and restoration and human dimensions of fish and wildlife conservation. **Prerequisites:** RENR 205 and junior or senior classification or approval of instructor. (3) *Students may need to submit force request with WFSC advising office; priority is given to majors.*