



Degree Information

The Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Sciences (RPTS) offers five graduate degrees. Two of these are research degrees and three are professional degrees. Professional degrees include: Master of Science in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences (non-thesis option); Master of Recreation Resources Development (MRRD); and Master of Natural Resources Development (MNRD). Research degrees are: Doctor of Philosophy in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences and Master of Science in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences (thesis option).

Masters: Thesis or Non-Thesis

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The Master of Science (non-thesis option) is intended for current professionals or those seeking a degree leading to professional service in recreation, parks, or tourism. It requires a minimum of 36 semester hours beyond the bachelors degree. Students earning this degree may elect a professional internship as part of the 36 hours, but this is not required.

Ph.D.

This degree requires 70 semester hours of graduate study beyond the master's degree, including 24 hours devoted to an original dissertation research. A final examination on the dissertation is conducted by the student's advisory committee. The Ph.D. degree normally takes three to four years to complete, depending on individual circumstance.

Admission

Admission is based on undergraduate record (coursework, and grades), letters of recommendation, and performance on



**AGRICULTURE
& LIFE SCIENCES**
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Graduate Studies in

Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences

Master of Science Degree (M.S.)

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

**MS, MNRD,
MRRD
PhD**

**Department of
Recreation, Park and
Tourism Sciences**

the GRE and TOEFL exams. Transcripts, statement of intent, and writing samples are required with application. Applicants whose native language is not English should plan to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The deadline for submitting application is Fall – March 1; Spring – August 1; and summer – November 1, but early application is recommended. Applications are reviewed on an individual basis.

Placement and Jobs

Our graduate program has produced leaders in private industry, public services, and in academia. Doctoral graduates have been successful in obtaining faculty appointments at universities world-wide, including:

University of Illinois
Clemson University
Penn State University
Georgetown University
Hong Kong Polytechnic Institute
Waterloo University

Distinguished Faculty

The prestige of our department can largely be attributed to its faculty, both past and present. Our current faculty of 27 has published more research than any department of its type, and has won multiple awards at the department and individual level (for both teaching and research). Additionally, the department has four active Professors and three Emeritus Professors in the Academy of Leisure Sciences; two active Professors and one Professor Emeritus in the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration; and two active Professors and two Professors Emeriti in the International Academy for the Study of Tourism.

Extensive Facilities

Students have access to multiple state-of-the-art labs and high-end computer systems. The university library system houses more than 2.7 million volumes, 4.9 million microform units, and 30,000 electronic books. High-speed wireless is available throughout the campus.

Mentoring

The department is known for its collegial faculty and staff. The department provides seminar lectures and opportunities for students to meet prominent researchers, and leisure agency and tourism business representatives from across the globe.

Orientation introduces new students to university policies and employee benefits. Students will meet with faculty to discuss which courses to select based on interest and undergraduate background. Departmental **seminars acquaint** students with faculty and existing graduate student research.

Socials and departmental picnics allow opportunity to visit and interact with faculty members outside the university environment.

Financial Support

Faculty in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences work with funding agencies to provide resources to graduate students with particular academic foci. Additional teaching and research assistantships are available annually. Tuition expenses are paid for TA's and RA's, in addition to a monthly stipend of \$1647 for PhD students and \$1470 for Master's degree students.

Assistantships are awarded by faculty members and funded by their research grants. Fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis and available from Texas A&M, the federal government, or private sources. The Texas A&M financial service department has a support team to help students.

Contact Information

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