Recreation Therapy, BS

As a recreational therapist, you make a difference in the lives of individuals who live with illness and disabling conditions. Using activity-based therapeutic interventions, you will enjoy a rewarding career empowering people to live a healthy leisure lifestyle.

Program Description

The BS program in recreational therapy prepares students to apply for national professional certification through the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification through completion of the degree program, completion of the required supervised internship and sitting for the NCTRC exam. [https://www.nctrc.org/about-certification/ctrs-the-qualified-provider](https://www.nctrc.org/about-certification/ctrs-the-qualified-provider)

The program prepares students to become competent, entry-level recreational therapists with the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities needed to improve functional outcomes and increase participation in life activities for individuals experiencing health conditions.

Through the curriculum, students learn to conduct assessments, develop service plans, implement therapeutic interventions, and evaluate and document outcomes of care. They gain skills to effectively provide comprehensive therapeutic recreation services that include program design and evaluation, individual and group service provision, and advocacy. The required fieldwork component of the program facilitates the development of competencies to provide quality recreational therapy services.

Students who choose this degree program are committed to improving people's lives and contributing to their communities. This degree program is one of two such programs in Arizona, both offered by the School of Community Resources and Development. This program has a heavier emphasis on health care settings such as hospitals and human service agencies while the Bachelor of Science in parks and recreation with a concentration in therapeutic recreation prepares students to provide recreational therapy services in community settings such as youth programs, adaptive sports, or parks and recreation.

This major is eligible for the Western Undergraduate Exchange program at the following location: Downtown Phoenix campus. Students from Western states who select this major and campus may be
eligible for reduced nonresident tuition at a rate of 150% of Arizona resident tuition plus all applicable fees. Students should click the link for more information and eligibility requirements of the WUE program.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** Watts College of Public Service & Community Solutions
- **Location:** Downtown Phoenix campus WUE or Online

- **Additional Program Fee:** Yes
- **Second Language Requirement:** No
- **First Required Math Course:** MAT 142 - College Mathematics
- **Math Intensity:** General

Required Courses (Major Map)

- [2022 - 2023 Major Map](#)
- [Major Map (Archives)](#)

Concurrent Program Options

Students pursuing concurrent degrees (also known as a double major) earn two distinct degrees and receive two diplomas. Working with their academic advisors, students can create their own concurrent degree combination. Some combinations are not possible due to high levels of overlap in curriculum.

Admission Requirements

- **General University Admission Requirements:**
  All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.
  [Freshman](#) | [Transfer](#) | [International](#) | [Readmission](#)

Change of Major Requirements

A current ASU student has no additional requirements for changing majors.

Students should refer to [https://changemajor.apps.asu.edu](https://changemajor.apps.asu.edu) for information about how to change a major to this program.

Transfer Options
ASU is committed to helping students thrive by offering tools that allow personalization of the transfer path to ASU. Students may use MyPath2ASU™ to outline a list of recommended courses to take prior to transfer.

ASU has transfer partnerships in Arizona and across the country to create a simplified transfer experience for students. These pathway programs include exclusive benefits, tools and resources, and they help students save time and money in their college journey. Students may learn more about these programs by visiting the admission site: https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/MyPath2ASU.

Global Opportunities

Global Experience
With over 250 programs in more than 65 countries (programs vary in length, from one week to one year), study abroad is possible for all ASU students who wish to acquire global skills and knowledge in preparation for a 21st century career. Students earn ASU credit for completed courses, while staying on track for graduation, and they may apply financial aid and scholarships toward program costs.

https://goglobal.asu.edu/

Career Opportunities

Recreation therapy is a rapidly growing field, given the rising number of returning veterans and an aging population. Graduates are prepared for work in a wide variety of clinical settings, including hospitals, rehabilitation centers and extended care facilities. Graduates also are qualified to work in human service and community settings such as parks and recreation departments.

Career examples include but are not limited to those shown in the following list. Advanced degrees or certifications may be required for academic or clinical positions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>*Growth</th>
<th>*Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adapted Physical Education Teacher</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>$62,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Therapist</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>$57,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>$56,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>$36,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Health Worker</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical and Health Services Manager</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>$104,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational Therapist</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>$47,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation Counselor</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>$37,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Services Director</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>$69,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
* Data obtained from the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) under sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA).

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**Professional Licensure**

ASU programs that may lead to professional licensure or certification are intended to prepare students for potential licensure or certification in Arizona. Completion of an ASU program may not meet educational requirements for licensure or certification in another state. For more information, students should visit the ASU professional licensure webpage: [https://admission.asu.edu/academics/licensure](https://admission.asu.edu/academics/licensure).

**Contact Information**

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