

Recreation Therapy, BS

PPRECTBS

Become a recreational therapist and make a difference in the lives of individuals who live with illness and disabling conditions. Use activity-based therapeutic interventions, empower people to live a healthy leisure lifestyle and enjoy a rewarding career through your work with human service and recreation programs in the community.

Program description

The BS program in recreational therapy prepares students to apply for the national professional certification through the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification:

<https://nctrc.org/about-certification/ctrs-the-qualified-provider>.


The program prepares 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. It is designed for students who want to 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 Solut](#)
- **Location:** [Downtown Phoenix](#) **WUE**
- **Second language requirement:** No
- **First required math course:** MAT 142 - College Mathematics
- **Math intensity:** General 

Required courses (Major Map)

[2024 - 2025 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.

[First-year](#) | [Transfer](#) | [International](#) | [Readmission](#)

Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

Change of Major Requirements

A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 is required to change into this program.

Students should visit the [Change of Major form](#) 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.

Program learning outcomes

Program learning outcomes identify what a student will learn or be able to do upon completion of their program. This program has the following program outcomes:

- Illustrate collaborative solutions to complex community health issues (e.g., access to healthcare and recreation, health disparity, mental health, obesity, physical activity, substance abuse).
- Employ effective communication skills including adapting use of nonverbal messaging when communicating with diverse audiences
- Demonstrate elements of a qualified provider facilitating recreational therapy services.

Global opportunities

Global experience

With more than 300 [Global Education program opportunities](#) available, recreation therapy students are able to tailor their experience to their individual interests and skill sets. Whether in a foreign country, in the U.S., or online, students build communication skills, learn to adapt and persevere, and are exposed to research and internships across the world, increasing their professional network.

Career opportunities

Recreational 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 community settings such as parks and recreation departments.

Example job titles and salaries listed below are not necessarily entry level, and students should take into consideration how years of experience and geographical location may affect pay scales. Some jobs also may require advanced degrees, certifications or state-specific licensure.

Career	*Growth	*Median salary
<u>Adapted Physical Education Teacher</u>	2.9%	\$63,950
<u>Art Therapist</u> ☀️	12.2%	\$60,800
<u>Certified Recreational Therapist</u>	3.6%	\$51,330
<u>Coach</u> ☀️	9.2%	\$44,890
<u>Community Health Worker</u> ☀️	14.1%	\$46,190
<u>Medical and Health Services Manager</u> ☀️	28.4%	\$104,830
<u>Rehabilitation Counselor</u>	1.9%	\$39,990
<u>Social Services Director</u> ☀️	9.1%	\$74,240

* Data obtained from the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) under sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA).

☀️ [Bright Outlook](#)

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.

Contact information

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