Recreation Therapy, **BS**

Recreational therapists make a difference in the health and well-being of individuals and communities through recreation-based therapeutic interventions. You can enjoy a rewarding career empowering people to live a healthy leisure lifestyle.

**Program Description**

The BS program in recreation therapy prepares students to become competent, entry-level recreational therapists with the requisite knowledge and skills needed to use recreation-based interventions to improve health outcomes. Students are prepared to be qualified experiential therapists, utilizing the holistic benefits within creative and expressive arts, adapted exercise and sport, aquatic therapy, therapeutic riding, horticulture therapy, community integration, leisure education and structured play.

Students enrolled in the program gain knowledge and requisite competencies to lead recreation-based therapeutic programs as a strategy to improve individual and community health. Through the curriculum, students learn the systematic process of conducting assessments, developing service plans, implementing therapeutic interventions, evaluating, and documenting outcomes of care.

Additionally, students acquire intercultural and interprofessional competencies, as well as leadership skills necessary for the delivery of high quality, comprehensive recreational therapy services.

The program involves extensive hands-on learning utilizing fieldwork opportunities through community-engaged activities, labs, practicum, and an internship as a program capstone. Bachelor of Science in recreation therapy graduates have many job opportunities and a solid foundation for graduate education.

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

Required Courses (Major Map)

2023 - 2024 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 college, 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 current ASU student has no additional requirements for changing majors.

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 over 300 programs in more than 65 countries (programs vary in length, from one week to one year), participation in a Global Education program is possible for all ASU students who wish to acquire a global perspective and knowledge in preparation for their 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.

**Career Opportunities**

Recreation therapy is a rapidly growing field, given the rising number of returning veterans and an aging population. Graduates are prepared for diverse opportunities in a rewarding career working with people of all ages.

Graduates are eligible to apply for national professional certification through the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (https://www.nctrc.org/), which qualifies them as certified therapeutic recreation specialists. Certification is required for most clinical positions and hospital settings, though each facility and state may vary in requirements. Receiving a CTRS credential from the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation is preferred, though may not be required.

Some graduates may work in clinical settings, including:
• acute care hospitals*
• assisted living facilities
• extended care facilities
• pediatric hospitals
• inpatient and outpatient physical rehabilitation centers
• substance abuse clinics

Other graduates may choose to work in human service and community settings such as:

• adapted sports programs
• adult day programs
• correctional facilities
• mental health care programs*
• parks and recreation departments
• school systems

*Starred settings almost always require certification

Career example titles and salaries listed below are not necessarily entry level, and students should take into consideration how years of experience, geographical location, and required advanced degrees or certifications may affect pay scales.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>*Growth</th>
<th>*Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adapted Physical Education Teacher</strong></td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>$63,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Art Therapist</strong></td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>$60,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)</strong></td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>$59,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coach</strong></td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>$44,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Health Worker</strong></td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>$46,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical and Health Services Manager</strong></td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>$104,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recreational Therapist</strong></td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>$51,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rehabilitation Counselor</strong></td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>$39,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Services Director</strong></td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>$74,240</td>
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</tbody>
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* 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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