

Recreational Therapy, Certificate

PPRECTCERT

Do you want to build healthier communities? You can develop the dynamic professional competencies essential for meaningful recreation and leisure engagement in this program.

Description

Students enrolled in the therapeutic recreation certificate program gain knowledge and requisite competencies to lead recreation-based therapeutic programs as a strategy to improve individual and community health. Through curriculum foundational to the field, students learn the systematic process of conducting assessments, developing service plans, implementing therapeutic interventions, evaluating, and documenting outcomes of care. Through the academic certificate program, students examine the holistic benefits of recreational therapy through exposure to creative and expressive arts, adapted exercise and sport, aquatic therapy, therapeutic riding, horticulture therapy, community integration, leisure education and structured play.

The certificate program is an ideal choice for individuals who value the importance of a healthy leisure lifestyle for all, want to advocate for accessible recreation opportunities, and are dedicated to the use of recreation-based interventions to improve well-being.

The certificate is a valuable supplement to degrees in related fields as it helps students develop a unique set of competencies and also serves as a pathway to credentialing as a qualified provider of recreational therapy.

Students seeking professional certification in recreational therapy have the option to select specific recreational therapy content courses to contribute a portion of the requirements necessary for eligibility with the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification; further information is available on their website. <https://nctrc.org/about-certification/ctrs-the-qualified-provider>.

At a glance

- **College/School:** [Watts College of Public Service & Community Solut](#)
- **Location:** [Downtown Phoenix](#)

Program requirements

[2024 - 2025 Certificate Map](#)

[Certificate Map \(Archives\)](#)

The recreational therapy certificate requires completion of 18 credit hours: six credit hours of required courses and 12 credit hours of electives. Students seeking the national credential in therapeutic recreation should select electives from that list.

Core Courses -- 6 credit hours

[RTH 364: Foundations in Recreational Therapy \(SOBE OR SB\)](#) (3)

[RTH 413: Leadership and Professional Development in Recreational Therapy](#) (3)

Electives (choose 12 credits) -- 12 credit hours

Choose four courses from Blocks A and B if interested in the ASU certificate, but not seeking the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation (NCTRC) credential. Choose four courses from only Block B if interested in taking support courses for NCTRC credential. (12)

Block A - Choose 4 courses from Block A and B if interested in only ASU certificate

Please note that these courses do not meet NCTRC credential requirements.

[CDE 244: Children Facing Health Care Challenges](#) (3)

[CDE 312: Adolescence \(SOBE OR SB\)](#) (3)

[CDE 414: The School-Aged Child: Development in the Elementary Years](#) (3)

[CDE 418: Aging and the Life Course \(SOBE OR SB & H\)](#) (3)

[CDE 430: Infant and Toddler Development in the Family \(SOBE OR SB\)](#) (3)

[CDE 450: Childhood Disorders and Family Functioning \(L\)](#) (3)

[DST 101: Introduction to Disability Studies \(CIVI OR C\)](#) (3)

[PRM 120: Leisure and the Quality of Life \(SOBE OR SB\)](#) (3)

[RTH 453: Inclusive Community Sport](#) (3)

Block B - Choose 4 courses from only this list if interested in NCTRC credential

Students seeking the national credentialing through the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation (NCTRC) should select four courses from this list.

[RTH 400: Intervention Techniques in Recreational Therapy](#) (3)

Notes: Offered only in spring semester

[RTH 440: Advocacy in Therapeutic Recreation \(GCSI OR G\)](#) (3)

[RTH 450: Therapeutic Recreation and Community Health](#) (3)

Notes: Offered only in spring semester

[RTH 455: Recreational Therapy and Play with Children, Youth and Families](#) (3)

[RTH 460: Assessment and Documentation in Recreational Therapy](#) (3)

Notes: Offered only in fall semester

Prerequisite courses may be needed in order to complete the requirements of this minor.

Enrollment requirements

A student pursuing an undergraduate certificate must be enrolled as a degree-seeking student at ASU. Undergraduate certificates are not awarded prior to the award of an undergraduate degree. A student already holding an undergraduate degree may pursue an undergraduate certificate as a nondegree-seeking graduate student.

Career opportunities

Recreational therapists practice in settings such as inpatient and outpatient physical rehabilitation, inpatient and outpatient mental health, and skilled nursing facilities as well as in assisted living and adult day programs, park and recreation and adapted sports programs, acute care hospitals, pediatric hospitals, and programs and school systems.

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.

Students should review requirements for licensure on the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification website: <https://www.nctrc.org/>.

Contact information

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