RECREATION, PARKS, AND TOURISM

College of Health and Social Sciences
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Program Scope
The Recreation, Parks, and Tourism (RPT) Department at SF State, in existence since 1946, has established a reputation for excellence. From distinguished faculty with considerable experience in teaching, research, and service, to a dynamic curriculum based on extensive feedback from students, alumni, current trends, and an advisory board of RPT professionals, students acquire knowledge and skills to:

Engineer Experiences that Engage, Empower, and Educate.

One of the program’s most important resources for faculty and the curriculum is the diversity and vitality of the San Francisco Bay Area. The number of agencies, institutions, and leisure enterprises makes the region a hands-on classroom and living laboratory for public, private, and nonprofit recreation; local, state, and national parks; and domestic and international tourism.

Vision
A world where leisure permeates all facets of life.

Mission
To advance and advocate for the field of recreation, parks, and tourism through transformative education, scholarship, and service.

Bachelor of Science
The department offers a Bachelor of Science in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration, which is accredited by the National Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (COAPRT). Accreditation provides many benefits including credibility and broader recognition within the academic and professional community. The RPT program delivers academic content that is current, relevant, and experiential. The curriculum leads to a 400 hour, 15 unit, full-time internship at one of 400+ approved RPT organizations. This culminating experience often leads to permanent positions and a career in RPT – a welcome transition from academia.

Master of Science
The Master of Science in Recreation, Parks, & Tourism develops leaders in the RPT profession and prepares students for an advanced degree (e.g., Ph.D.). The curriculum allows students to focus on their interest area within the field. Courses are taught by RPT faculty from three different California State University campuses who have a wide range of skills, interests, and expertise. Core classes are hybrid (partially in-person and partially online), which allows for geographical freedom and meaningful face-to-face experiences. Students are almost exclusively accepted for the fall in order to build a cohort with strong professional and social ties.

Program Competencies
The curriculum will focus on the following nine competencies, which all have assigned courses and associated program and student learning outcomes:

- Communication (professional, nonverbal, verbal)
- Foundations (philosophy, history, science)
- Information Technology (application, research, reporting)
- Leadership (ethics, interpersonal, interpersonal)
- Management & Administration (finance, human capital, structures)
- Programming (design, implementation, evaluation)
- Profession & Industry (nature/scope, principles/practices, trends/ issues)
- Sustainability (economics, environment, equity)
- Wellness (dimensions, application, assessment)

Career Outlook
Every year, millions of people spend an increasing amount of time in pursuit of beneficial recreation, leisure, and touristic experiences. As the world's leading industry, recreation and leisure/tourism spending accounts for approximately one trillion dollars per year; this equates to one-third of all consumer spending. According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook published by the U.S. Department of Labor, the overall employment in the leisure/tourism and hospitality industry will grow 19% to 44% from 2010 to 2020.

There is a continued demand for full-time, trained recreation, park, and tourism professionals to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate programs and services in the public, for-profit, and nonprofit sectors within the leisure service delivery system. Thus, the recreation profession offers diverse employment opportunities for individuals who are enthusiastic, enjoy working with people, and have acquired the necessary professional skills. Although not exhaustive, the below list provides career categories within in the RPT profession.
Certificate

- Certificate in Youth and Human Services Nonprofit Administration
  (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/health-social-sciences/recreation-parks-tourism/certificate-youth-human-services-nonprofit-administration)

Masters

- Master of Science in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism
  (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/health-social-sciences/recreation-parks-tourism/ms-recreation-parks-tourism)

RPT 110 Critical Thinking and the Leisure Experience (Units: 3)
Introduction to basic concepts and principles of critical thinking. Subject matter includes identifying, differentiating, constructing, and evaluating arguments; recognizing fallacies; and applying formal and informal reasoning to the leisure experience. [Formerly RPT 120]
(Note: In order for this course to satisfy General Education, students must earn a C- or CR or higher grade if taken fall 2014 or later.)
Course Attributes:
- E1: Lifelong Learning Develop
- A3: Critical Thinking

RPT 115 Activity Director Training (Units: 3)
Training designed to prepare participants for the role of activity director at health care facilities. [Formerly RPT 110]

RPT 152 Aquatic Sports (Units: 3)
Topic to be specified in Class Schedule. Development of skills and techniques in aquatic related sports and leisure activities. May be repeated for a total of 12 units. Extra fee may be required.

RPT 161 Lake and Sea Kayaking (Unit: 1)
Prerequisite: Must be able to swim 25 yards.
Understanding basic theory, strokes, safety practices and skills development in lake and sea kayaking. Topics include strokes, boat handling, hazards, capsizing recovery, trip planning and wildlife observation. May be repeated for 3 units for degree credit. Extra course fee may be required. (CR/NC only) [Formerly a topic under RPT 160]

RPT 162 Small Boat Sailing (Unit: 1)
Basic sailing theory, safety practices and development of skills and techniques in small boat sailing: knots, rigging, boat handling, docking and capsize recovery. Students must take a basic swim test (wearing a life jacket) prior to the first class. May be repeated for 3 units. Extra course fee may be required. (CR/NC only) [Formerly a topic under RPT 160]

RPT 163 Beginning Rock Climbing (Unit: 1)
Introduction to rock climbing and belay in both indoor and outdoor settings. Topics include knot tying, rope handling, hazards, equipment use and care, climbing techniques, anchor building, leave-no-trace climbing. Extra course fee may be required. (CR/NC only) [Formerly a topic under RPT 160]

RPT 164 Introduction to Back Country Skiing (Unit: 1)
Prerequisite: Ability to continuously run one mile.
Introduction to cross country and telemark ski equipment, techniques, snow characteristics, hazards, trip planning for back country skiing away from ski areas. Includes ski trip and overnight stay in Yosemite National Park. Extra course fee may be required. (CR/NC only) [Formerly a topic under RPT 160]
RPT 165 Nature Sampler Field Study and Service (Unit: 1)  
Immerse yourself and help nature, parks and natural areas; choose from variety of volunteer projects and dates, gain hands-on experience, learn from agency professionals. Reflect on your experiences. (CR/NC grading only) [CSL may be available] [Service hours maybe used to satisfy pre-internship or degree experience requirements; consult your department advisor.]  

RPT 166 Inclusive Shared Outdoor Adventures (Unit: 1)  
Introduction to inclusion principals, activities, adaptive equipment, techniques, trip planning. Collaboration of students with and without disabilities working together so all have positive shared cycling, kayaking, and sailing experiences. Specialized adaptive recreation equipment provided. Extra course fee may be required. (CR/NC only) [Formerly a topic under RPT 160]  

RPT 167 Women's Backpacking (Unit: 1)  
Personal adventure programming philosophy, leadership, and outdoor recreation skills for women, through readings, planning and participating in hiking and backpacking trips. Extra course fee may be required. (CR/NC only) [Formerly a topic under RPT 160]  

RPT 168 Walking Tours of San Francisco (Unit: 1)  
Introduction to the basics of walking tour guiding, including tour design, preparation, and presentation. Focus on design and delivery of urban walking tours in San Francisco on a topic chosen by the student. May be repeated for a total of 3 units. (CR/NC only)  

RPT 169 Playing and Learning Outside the Classroom (Unit: 1)  
Experience engineering, enjoyment, self-development, leadership/facilitation, benefits and barriers, environments and materials, modification and adaptation, wellness components, and other related concepts will be explored and examined through playing and facilitating experiential activities. May be repeated for a total of 3 units.  

RPT 200 Foundations of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism (Units: 3)  
Recreation, parks, and tourism as a discipline and profession; introduction to concepts, philosophy, history, and science; nature and scope of careers in for-profit, nonprofit, and public sectors; examination of issues and trends, and their implications to leisure systems and processes.  
Course Attributes:  
• E1: Lifelong Learning Develop  

RPT 205 Enlightened and Sustainable Travel (Units: 3)  
Culturally sensitive, low impact travel and tourism by individuals that engages travellers, protects the global environment and benefits local communities. Assessment of the adverse/beneficial impacts of travel. Development of trip plan incorporating enlightened travel principles and sustainable tourism goals.  
Course Attributes:  
• E1: Lifelong Learning Develop  
• D1: Social Sciences  

RPT 210 Growth through Art and Leisure (Units: 3)  
Arts and crafts skills for recreational and clinical/therapeutic purposes; the development of creativity and self-expression in community programs, resources for materials, leadership skills, and equipment use and maintenance are covered. Classwork, 2 units; laboratory, 1 unit. Extra fee required. [Formerly RPT 330]  
Course Attributes:  
• E1: Lifelong Learning Develop  
• C1: Arts  

RPT 220 Leisure Lifestyle Development (Units: 3)  
Overview of leisure: with emphasis on how the optimal leisure experience can contribute to one’s total well-being, acquiring leisure activity skills/techniques, methods of evaluating and enriching one’s personal leisure. Not open to recreation majors.  

RPT 230 Growth Through Adventure (Units: 3)  
Development of values and understanding of self through outdoor adventure activities. Influences of culture, history, fears, and myths on outdoor adventure activities. Introduction to selected outdoor skills. Survey of selected outdoor adventure activities in the Bay Area and Northern California. Extra fee required.  
Course Attributes:  
• C3: Humanities: Literature  

RPT 240 Leisure and Society (Units: 3)  
A critical behavioral and social analysis of recreation, parks, tourism, and related professions and disciplines. Introduction to theory, history, literature, and careers in the field. Examination of leisure trends and issues, and their implications to the leisure service delivery system.  
Course Attributes:  
• E1: Lifelong Learning Develop  
• D1: Social Sciences  

RPT 300 Leadership in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism (Units: 3)  
Prerequisite: RPT 200 (may be taken concurrently).  
Leadership theory, self-assessment, intrapersonal and interpersonal communication, and group dynamics in recreation, parks, and tourism settings. Develop leadership competencies in cultural sensitivity, planning, safety/risk management, and problem-solving through experiential learning, influence of power and ethics on decision-making.  

RPT 325 Information Technology in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism (Units: 3)  
Prerequisite: RPT 200 (may be taken concurrently).  
Knowledge and skill development in information technology and literacy; introduction to APA writing style, research, data collection, analysis, and reporting; and application of word processing, presentation, spreadsheet, and specialized software used in the recreation, parks, and tourism profession. [Formerly RPT 225]  

RPT 340 Conference, Event Planning, and Management (Units: 3)  
Prerequisite: Upper division standing or consent of instructor.  
Organizing, planning, and managing conferences, conventions, and special events: site and faculty selection, scheduling, programming and theme development, exhibit management, registration, and overall meeting services.
RPT 350 Facilitating Wellness Through Leisure (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: RPT 200 (may be taken concurrently).
Examination of concepts, processes, and applications related to leisure and wellness. Origin, development, and expression of leisure in individual behavior and its relationship to facilitating wellness. [Formerly RPT 650] [CSL may be available]

RPT 358 Advanced Sailing Theory and Practice (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: RPT 152 or equivalent and consent of instructor.
Advanced sailing techniques, competitive sailing, regattas, rule interpretations and supervised experiences including participation in ICCSA regattas. Guest lectures on rule interpretations, tactics, and navigations. May be repeated for a total of 12 units. Extra fee may be added.

RPT 360 Outdoor Recreation Leadership (Unit: 1)
Prerequisites: RPT 400 and consent of instructor.
Advanced students serve under individual faculty supervision in organizing and conducting outdoor recreation programs. Open only to majors and minors in recreation. May be repeated twice on advisement.

RPT 365 White Water Raft Guiding (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Previous whitewater experience; ability to swim 100 yards and tread water for 5 minutes; CPR and First Aid.
Skills of white water raft guiding. River hydraulics, water reading, raft maneuvering, equipment care and maintenance, environmental ethics, safety and emergency procedures, trip planning and organization. Classwork, 1 unit; laboratory, 2 units. Extra fee required. (CR/NC grading only)

RPT 370 Principles of Nonprofit Administration (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Upper division standing or consent of instructor.
Principles of nonprofit agency administration. Understanding of philosophical, historical, and social context; volunteer movement, funding, governance, organization, and management of nonprofit agencies; trends; professional development and employment opportunities.

RPT 380 Developmental Play Processes (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Upper division standing or consent of instructor.
Concepts and issues related to play, recreation, and leisure; learning and human development throughout the lifespan; gender and cultural differences; materials and environments; benefits and barriers; engineering and facilitating experiences; and activity adaptation. Classwork, 2 units; laboratory, 1 unit.
Course Attributes:
• E1: Lifelong Learning Develop
• UD-D: Social Sciences

RPT 390 Leisure Travel and Tourism (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Upper division standing; RPT 200 (may be taken concurrently).
Investigate scope and nature of the tourism industry including key system components; history; group travel planning, budgeting, and marketing techniques and processes used by tourism professionals; careers; current trends; and future challenges and opportunities.
Course Attributes:
• Global Perspectives

RPT 400 Programming in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Upper division standing; enrollment priority for Recreation, Parks, and Tourism majors.
Theory and process of program assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation in public and private venues to enhance individual and community life quality. Needs and interests of people, settings, and leisure activities. Program marketing and community outreach.

RPT 410 Therapeutic and Inclusive Recreation (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Upper division standing; RPT 200 (may be taken concurrently).
Universal access, design and inclusion in a diverse range of recreation, parks, and tourism settings. Disabling conditions and implications for leadership, activity adaptation, and programming. Enabling legislation, regulatory agents, and practices relevant to inclusivity and human rights. [CSL may be available]
Course Attributes:
• Social Justice

RPT 430 Ecology of Outdoor Recreation (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.
Parks and outdoor recreation. Conservation of resources, appreciation, use and misuse of the natural environment.

RPT 440 Urban Recreation and Parks (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Upper division standing; RPT 200 (may be taken concurrently).
Urban recreation needs, issues, services; socio-political, ethnographic, and demographic influences on recreation, parks, and human service organizations for youth and other populations across the lifespan. Understanding philosophical, historical, and contemporary volunteerism, basic nonprofit governance, resource distribution, and managing municipal services.
Course Attributes:
• UD-D: Social Sciences
• Am. Ethnic & Racial Minorities
• Social Justice

RPT 445 Recreation Therapy and the Expressive Arts (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Upper division standing or consent of instructor.
Expressive arts and their use in a therapeutic recreation setting: art, music, movement and dance, poetry, and drama therapy.

RPT 460 Recreation Destination Resorts (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: RPT 390 or consent of instructor.
Leisure experiences provided by resorts, theme parks, campgrounds, hotels, and activity specific centers. Fundamentals of establishing, administrating, promoting, and working in recreation resorts.

RPT 470 Care Break: Alternative Spring Break Service (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Upper division standing.
Introduction and application of concepts related to civic and community engagement, cultural competency, and sociocultural, environmental, and economic sustainability through a mandatory 40-hour spring break service learning experience. Travel outside California or the U.S. may be required. Extra fee required. [CSL may be available]

Course Attributes:
• Global Perspectives
RPT 500 Organization and Administration of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Upper division standing; RPT 200, RPT 325 [formerly RPT 225]; concurrent enrollment in RPT 400; and RPT 600GW recommended.

Principles and practices in organizational structure, human resources administration, supervision, budgeting and financial management, and analysis of recreation, parks, and tourism organizations. Trends, technology applications, and case studies.

RPT 520 Parks and Outdoor Recreation Resources (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Upper division standing; RPT 200 (maybe taken concurrently).

Park operations and regulatory compliance at municipal, county, state, and federal levels; resource acquisition and financing; facility planning, design, and maintenance; environmental issues; ethics; interrelationship between environment and visitor experience; and risk management.

Course Attributes:
- Environmental Sustainability

RPT 540 Start-Up and Sustainable Operations of Tourism, Event and Recreation Enterprises (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: RPT 390 or consent of instructor.

Start-up and administration of tourism, event, and commercial recreation enterprises; industry trends; consumer behavior with implications for entrepreneurs and managers; managing and marketing principles applied to industry; development of enterprise plan; assessment of financial feasibility.

(RPT 840/RPT 540 is a paired course offering. Students who complete the course at one level may not repeat the course at the other level.)

RPT 560 Current Practices in Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services (Units: 1-3)
Prerequisite: RPT 200 or consent of instructor.

Topic to be specified in Class Schedule. Focus on new or updated technology, procedures, or methods; e.g., systems analysis, leisure education, tourism, legal implications, specific professional practices in parks, recreation, and leisure services. May be repeated for a total of 9 units when topics vary.

RPT 570 Developing and Managing Resources in Nonprofit Agencies (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: RPT 370 or consent of instructor.

Framework for the administration of nonprofit agencies through volunteer recruitment, selection, and management. Principles of philanthropy and fundraising applied to management of nonprofit agencies. [CSL may be available]

RPT 600GW Professionalism in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism - GWAR (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Upper division standing; ENG 214 or equivalent with a grade of C or better; concurrent enrollment in RPT 400, RPT 500; internship eligibility.

Seminar in professional/personal development; career planning; internship preparation; current issues, trends, policies, and professional practices. Demonstration of professional, nonverbal, and verbal communication competencies. (ABC/NC grading only) [Formerly RPT 660GW]

Course Attributes:
- Graduation Writing Assessment

RPT 605 Ecotourism Principles and Practices (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Upper division standing.

Nature-based, low-impact tourism to preserve the environment and local communities. Assessment of adverse and beneficial tourism impacts on the global environment, indigenous cultures, and economy. Ecotourism market, providers, eco-resorts, community settings, and regulators. The balance between promoting versus limiting ecotourism.

Course Attributes:
- UD-D: Social Sciences
- Environmental Sustainability
- Global Perspectives
- Social Justice

RPT 640 Recreational Use of National Parks and Protected Areas (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Upper division standing or consent of instructor.

Introduction to concepts of conservation and preservation of national parks and other ecosystem units, and managing visitor use. Emphasis on history, management principles, and current issues. National parks will be the primary focus, selected international protected areas will be included.

[CSL may be available]

(This course is offered as RPT 640 and ENVS 640. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

RPT 670 Advanced Conference, Event Planning, and Management (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: RPT 340 or consent of instructor.

Application of advanced techniques for planning and managing conventions, trade shows, festivals, expositions, and other special events. Event strategic planning and marketing, ROI, and risk management.

RPT 690 Internship in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism (Units: 12)
Prerequisites: Restricted to upper division Recreation, Parks, and Tourism majors; internship eligibility; and consent of instructor.

A 400-hour, full-time internship in a recreation, parks, or tourism agency supervised by qualified personnel. Application of concepts, principles, and best practices; directed field experience and training in organization and industry infrastructure including operations, facilities, marketing, finance, and programs/services; and demonstration of competencies needed in the profession. (Plus-minus ABC/NC) [CSL may be available]
RPT 699 Independent Study (Units: 1-3)
Prerequisite: Upper division standing or consent of instructor.

In-depth, individual, or group study projects in areas of personal/professional recreation and leisure interest under the guidance of a faculty member. Enrollment by petition. May be repeated for a total of 6 units. (Plus-minus letter grade only) [CSL may be available]

RPT 700 Orientation and Professional Development in Recreation and Leisure Service (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor.

Orientation to the recreation, parks, and tourism discipline; literature in the field; research writing; current issues and trends; comprehensive self-assessment professional skills and competencies.

RPT 720 Developing Collaborative Leaders in Leisure Services (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor.

Examination and development of leadership behaviors and principles associated with creating and/or guiding a leisure service organization's efforts to develop collaborative leaders. Emphasis on creating an organizational environment with a diverse workforce where shared leadership is valued and practiced.

RPT 730 Foundations of Leisure (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor.

Interrelated concepts of time, work, and leisure and their impact on the leisure services profession and selected contemporary and future issues. Selected readings in cultural, historical, philosophical, behavioral, and social scientific literature related to the above.

RPT 740 Leisure and Aging (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate status or consent of instructor.

Trends, concepts, challenges of aging related to leisure. Focuses on issues of lifespan, retirement, changing roles, and lifestyle adjustment. Applications and implications for leisure service delivery in a variety of clinical, custodial/long-term care, and community organizational settings.

RPT 810 Research Methods in Recreation and Leisure Studies (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: RPT 700, RPT 730, or consent of instructor.

Introduction to general research approaches, design, and methodology, with emphasis on research design and methods used in recreation and leisure studies. Review of pertinent literature. Gain practical experience with graduate level resources at SF State.

RPT 840 Start-Up and Sustainable Operations of Tourism, Event and Recreation Enterprises (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: RPT 390 or consent of instructor.

Start-up and administration of tourism, event, and commercial recreation enterprises; industry trends; consumer behavior with implications for entrepreneurs and managers; managing and marketing principles applied to industry; development of enterprise plan; assessment of financial feasibility.
(RPT 840/RPT 540 is a paired course offering. Students who complete the course at one level may not repeat the course at the other level.)

RPT 850 Human Resources Development in Leisure Studies (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Classified graduate standing and consent of instructor.

Seminar in supervision including volunteer management, situational leadership: coaching and counseling personnel, performance appraisal, and personnel management systems.