

RECREATION, SPORT & TOURISM, PHD

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Recreation, Sport and Tourism

The Ph.D. program is designed to develop researchers and educators in the study of leisure behavior, the management of recreation, tourism, and sport systems that provide leisure services, or both.

The Department of Recreation, Sport & Tourism offers programs of study leading to the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. The Master of Science program educates students about leisure behavior, public parks and recreation systems, sport and tourism, in various private, public and semi-public settings providing leisure services.

Admission

The Graduate College admission requirements apply. Specifically, the admission requirements are a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (A = 4.0) for the last two years of undergraduate work and any graduate work completed. In accordance with Graduate College requirements, applicants must receive a minimum score on the TOEFL of 103 and on the IELTS a minimum score of 7.5. Students are also required to provide an academic statement of purpose, a personal statement, a writing sample, and three letters of reference (at least one should be an academic reference). A video interview (e.g. Skype, Zoom) is required for Ph.D. and thesis-based MS applicants who do not speak English as their first language. Ph.D. students may be admitted for the fall or spring semesters.

Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience in this program. It is also anticipated that doctoral students will engage in research activities and scholarly communication under the guidance of their advisor.

Financial Aid

The department offers quarter-time and half-time assistantships in teaching, administration, and research, as well as tuition and fee waivers and the opportunity to apply for fellowships.

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Departmental requirements include satisfactory performance on the written preliminary examination at the completion of formal coursework, the oral preliminary examination on the proposed research for the thesis, and a final examination in defense of the doctoral thesis. For additional details and requirements for all degrees, please refer to the department's website (<http://rst.illinois.edu/grad-overview/>) and the Graduate College Handbook (<http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/>).

Code	Title	Hours
RST 550	Theory and Methods of Leisure	4
RST 551	Contemporary Issues in Leisure	4
RST 553	Advanced Leisure Research Methods	4
RST 590	Doctoral Research Seminar and Colloquium (required for four semesters)	4
Coursework to support specialization (of the 28 required hours, a student must complete a minimum of 12 hours of RST coursework)		28
Advanced research methods to support specialization		16+
RST 599	Thesis Research (min/max applied toward degree)	20
Total Hours		80

Other Requirements

Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
Two years in residence	
Masters Degree Required for Admission to PhD?	Yes
Qualifying Exam Required:	No
Preliminary Exam Required:	Yes
Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required:	Yes
Dissertation Deposit Required:	Yes
Minimum GPA:	3.0

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1. Graduates will have an in-depth understanding of the philosophical, historical and scientific foundations and developments of leisure, recreation, sport and tourism theory.
2. Graduates will have an in-depth understanding of the concepts, theories, methods and problems of research that are common to recreation, sport and tourism.
3. Graduates will have an in-depth understanding of research from neighboring disciplines to determine how their research may inform and influence research in recreation, sport and tourism.
4. Graduates will have an in-depth knowledge of the concepts, principles and practices that guide their areas of concentration in leisure behavior, recreation, sport or tourism.
5. Graduates will have an in-depth knowledge of advanced research methods, the ethical conduct of research, and the ability to independently conduct research and interpret results.
6. Graduates will develop in-depth knowledge and application in the science of teaching and learning.

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Department of Recreation, Sport & Tourism

Department Head: Carla Santos (csantos@illinois.edu)

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Director of Online Program: Mike Mulvaney (mmulvane@illinois.edu)
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College of Applied Health Sciences

College of Applied Health Sciences website (<http://ahs.illinois.edu>)

Admissions

Graduate College Admissions & Requirements (<https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/>)