The Recreation program in the Department of Health Education and Recreation offers a broad interdisciplinary program of studies preparing students for administrative careers in recreation management. The program leads to the Master of Science in Education degree with a major in recreation. This program requires a nonrefundable $50.00 application fee that must be submitted with the application for Admissions to Graduate Study in Recreation. Applicants can pay this fee by credit card when applying electronically. For details on applying to the Recreation graduate program go to www.siurec.com.

Master of Science in Education Degree
Graduate work in recreation stresses administration and research and is open to highly qualified students. All students must be admitted to the Graduate School in good standing.

Graduate students in recreation must complete a minimum of 36 semester hours including a theory core, a research methodology core, and a research core. The research core is completed by fulfilling requirements for either the thesis or the non-thesis option.

The thesis option requires 3 semester hours of research methods, 3 semester hours of thesis, and 3 or 4 semester hours of statistics. After completing the required research methods course, each student should select a chairperson for the thesis committee. A minimum of two additional graduate faculty members, one holding rank outside the faculty of recreation, is needed to form the full committee. After approval of a thesis topic, the student will conduct a research effort under the committee’s guidance, followed by an oral examination.

The non-thesis option requires 3 semester hours of research methods, 3 semester hours of individual research, and 3 or 4 semester hours of statistics. The research project or paper may be field-based or applied and will be supervised by an academic adviser who is a graduate faculty member in recreation. The research project or paper must be approved by one additional graduate faculty member.

After completion of the core in either the thesis or non-thesis option, the student will select an additional 17 emphasis and elective hours. Students completing EPSY 506-4 will take a total of 8 credit hours of electives and students completing EPSY 402-3 will take a total of 9 credit hours of electives. By utilizing electives, the student can focus on a specific option or emphasis. This emphasis may include recreation administration, focusing on skills necessary for management of local, state, and federal recreation programs both in the public and commercial sector; outdoor recreation resource management which focuses on skills necessary to manage or administer programs, facilities and lands in the local, state, and federal park system; or therapeutic recreation which focuses on skills necessary in the management of public and private organizations which provide a diverse array of therapeutic recreation services (this emphasis could lead to certification). Variations of these include campus recreation management, expedition leadership and facility management.

A student must have a minimum 3.0 (4.0 point scale) grade point average to be eligible to graduate.

Master's Degree in Recreation

Thesis (Option 1)

Theory Core
REC 500-3  Modern Concepts of Leisure
REC 501-3  Personnel in Leisure Services
REC 508-3  Trends and Global Issues in Leisure Services

Research Methodology Core
REC 550-3  Research in Recreation

Research Core
EPSY 506-4  Inferential Statistics or EPSY 402-3 Basic Statistics
REC 599-3  Thesis
Non-Thesis (Option 2)
Theory Core
REC 500-3 Modern Concepts of Leisure
REC 501-3 Personnel in Leisure Services
REC 508-3 Trends and Global Issues in Leisure Services
Research Methodology Core
REC 550-3 Research in Recreation
Research Core
EPSY 506-4 Inferential Statistics or EPSY 402-3 Basic Statistics
REC 575-3 Individual Research

Courses (REC)
Courses in this major may require the purchase of supplemental materials. Field trips are required for certain courses.

401-3 Fundamentals of Environmental Education. (Same as Agriculture 401 and Forestry 401.) A survey course designed to help education majors develop an understanding of environmental education principles and teaching both inside and outside the classroom. Requires field trip transportation fee not to exceed $25 per course registration. Prerequisite: ten hours of biological science or ten hours of recreation and/or education, or consent of instructor.

423-3 Environmental Interpretation. (Same as Agriculture 423 and Forestry 423.) Principles and techniques of natural and cultural interpretation. Two hours lecture, three hours laboratory. Requires field trip transportation fee not to exceed $40 per course registration. Prerequisite: ten hours of biological science or ten hours of recreation.

425-3 Planning and Design of Recreational Facilities. An examination of major design considerations for a variety of recreation facilities such as recreation centers, recreation sport complexes, parks, visitors centers, and natatoriums. Special attention will be given to long range facility planning. Prerequisite: 300, 301, 303 or consent of instructor.

430-3 Outdoor Living Skills. Introduction to basic outdoor living skills in wilderness environments. Topics include basic camping skill, equipment and clothing selection and use, weather, health and sanitation, travel techniques, navigation, and decision making/problem solving. Utilizes the outdoor living core competency curriculum of the Wilderness Education Association. Trip fee not exceed $350. May only be repeated once.

431-3 Expedition Leadership. Course focuses on professional leadership of highly adventurous wilderness trips. Emphasis is on development of sound judgment, decision-making, and teaching in wilderness expeditions. Three-to-five-week expeditions in a wilderness setting. Trip fee not to exceed $750. Outdoor Leader Certification by Wilderness Education Association is offered. Prerequisite: 331.

440-15 (3,3,3,3,3) Therapeutic Recreation for Selected Populations. Students will examine problems and characteristics of individuals with various disabilities. Emphasis is upon the role of therapeutic recreation with these specific populations in institutional and community settings: (a) therapeutic recreation for individuals with psychological disorders, (b) therapeutic recreation for individuals with developmental disabilities, (c) therapeutic recreation for the aged, (d) therapeutic recreation for those in the criminal justice system, (e) therapeutic recreation for individuals with physical disabilities and (f) therapeutic recreation in substance abuse treatment. Prerequisite: 300, 301, 302, 303 or consent of instructor.

445-3 Outdoor Recreation Management. Philosophy and principles underlying the growth and development of outdoor recreation management. Outdoor recreation is examined in terms of historical values, long range planning, site design, visitor needs and environment impact. A laboratory cost of up to $14 may be required. Restricted to Recreation majors. Prerequisite: 300, 302, 303 or consent of department.

460-3 Therapeutic Recreation Management. Organization and administration of therapeutic recreation programs in hospitals, nursing homes, schools for the retarded, detention centers, prisons and other institutions. Financial management and reimbursement issues are stressed. Prerequisite: 300, 302, 303 or consent of department.

461-3 Program Design and Evaluation for Therapeutic Recreation. To equip the student with the skills necessary to systematically design and evaluate programs. Philosophy and nature of systems, system analysis, assessment, individual treatment planning, implementation and evaluation of treatment programs. Prerequisite: 300, 302,
304, one section of 440, concurrent enrollment in 380, or consent of department.

462-3 Facilitation Techniques in Therapeutic Recreation. This course is designed to provide an understanding of the basic processes and techniques of therapeutic recreation and to develop technical competencies necessary for the provision of quality therapeutic recreation services. Emphasis is on the skillful application of various processes and techniques to facilitate therapeutic changes in the client and the client’s environment. Prerequisite: 365, 380.

475-3 to 39 (3 per topic) Recreation Workshop. Critical examination and analysis of innovative programs and practices in one of the following areas: 

(a) Budget and finance, 
(b) Campus recreation services, 
(c) Commercial, 
(d) Maintenance of areas and facilities, 
(e) Outdoor recreation. Field trip fee: $100.00(f) Personnel, 
(g) Technological advances, 
(h) Therapeutic recreation–aging, 
(i) Therapeutic recreation–developmental disability, 
(j) Therapeutic recreation–emotional illness, 
(k) Therapeutic recreation–physical disability, 
(l) Therapeutic recreation–prisons and detention centers, 
(m) Tourism.

485-2 to 12 Practicum in Outdoor Education. A supervised experience in a professional setting. Emphasis on administrative, supervisory, teaching and program leadership in outdoor, conservation, or environmental education setting. Costs for travel are the responsibility of the student. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

500-3 Modern Concepts of Leisure. This course explores the meaning of leisure, recreation, and play from a philosophical and psychological perspective. The historical and contemporary relationships among work, time, lifestyles and leisure are analyzed. In addition, the course attempts to develop students’ viewpoints toward these topics in order that they formulate a philosophy of leisure. Required of all majors.

501-3 Personnel in Leisure Services. This course will examine administrative issues regarding personnel in leisure delivery systems. Topics include: leadership theory, selection and training, legislation, collective bargaining, motivation, performance appraisal, power and gender. Prerequisite: 365.

502-3 Revenue Production for Leisure Service Organizations. An integrative view of revenue production for leisure service organizations. Numerous practices of generating income, such as fees and charges, facility rental, bonds, investments and public/private cooperative development will be examined in relationship to their ability to aid an organization in achieving its stated objectives. Prerequisite: 365.

503-3 Managing and Marketing Leisure Services. An examination of the critical functions of a manager in public and private leisure service organizations. Particular topics include goal and policy development, ethics, risk management, fiscal management and facility operations. Special attention is given to the leisure service managers role in marketing recreation. Prerequisite: 365.

508-3 Trends and Global Issues in Leisure Services. This course will study the various issues and trends that affect leisure delivery systems. This course will be the culminating seminar for graduate students in Recreation. Prerequisite: 500, 501, 502, 550.

524-3 Professional Skills in Therapeutic Recreation. This course focuses on professional skills necessary at the administrative and supervisory level. Program and staff development, conference presentations, and in-service training, grantsmanship, article writing, budgeting, consultation and public relations comprise the core of the course. Prerequisite: 304, 460 or consent of department.

525-3 Recreation for Special Populations. Planning, organizing, selecting, evaluating, and adapting activities to a variety of institutional and community settings. Prerequisite: 500 or consent of department.

526-3 Seminar in Current Issues in Therapeutic Recreation. This course focuses on current issues in therapeutic recreation services including credentialing, accreditation, professional associations, legislation, research and other relevant issues. Prerequisite: 304 or consent of department.

550-3 Research in Recreation. Critical analysis of the most significant research studies in park and community, special populations, commercial and outdoor recreation. Prerequisite: 500.

560-9 (3 per topic) Seminar in Recreation. Major issues, trends, and cultural, economic and social significance in (a) Park and community, (b) Therapeutic recreation and individuals with disabilities, and (c) Commercial recreation. Prerequisite: 500 or consent of department.

565-3 Environmental Issues in Outdoor Recreation. Seminar in environmental issues and problems that affect outdoor recreation. Content includes history of the environmental movement in relation to outdoor recreation and specific problems affecting recreation on national parks, forest and wildlife refuges.

575-1 to 6 Individual Research. Selecting, investigating, and writing of a research topic under the personal supervision of a member of the department. Designed to help the student to develop ability to design, conduct, analyze and interpret research related to the problem of leisure. Not more than three hours may count toward Master’s degree. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

580-1 to 6 Readings in Leisure and Recreation. Readings in selected topics in leisure and recreation under staff supervision. Not more than three hours may count toward Master’s degree. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

596-1 to 6 Field Work in Recreation. Field work in an approved recreation department. Field work is in the student’s field of interest. Supervision under approved agency officer in charge and a member of the department.
Prerequisite: major in recreation and permission of the department.

599-1 to 3 Thesis. Prerequisite: consent of department.

601-1 per semester Continuing Enrollment. For those graduate students who have not finished their degree programs and who are in the process of working on their dissertation, thesis, or research paper. The student must have completed a minimum of 24 hours of dissertation research, or the minimum thesis, or research hours before being eligible to register for this course. Concurrent enrollment in any other course is not permitted. Graded S/U or DEF only.