Fast Facts:

- The RPTA program at Sacramento State is the oldest NRPA accredited program in Recreation Administration in California.
- Currently in California, there are more city park and recreation and State Park positions available than qualified graduates.
- California is one of the world’s most-visited tourism destinations.
- Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists are in high demand and often negotiate extremely high salaries.
- California has more National Parks than any other state in the country.
- There are numerous programming opportunities for qualified graduates in Sacramento-area municipal park districts.

Our Profession: What can I do with this degree?

You can work in a recreation, park or tourism agency developing and marketing programs, designing and managing recreation facilities, and managing full and part time staff. With a B.S. in Recreation Administration, you can:

- Work as an interpreter for the National Park Service.
- Work at after-school recreation programs.
- Work at summer camps.
- Work in a hospital or clinic setting as a recreation therapy specialist.
- Plan and direct trips for adults with physical disabilities to go snow skiing at Lake Tahoe.
- Coordinate recreation activities at a resort.
- Work at ski resorts.
- Work as a recreation director on a cruise ship.
- Work as an event planner or meeting planner.
- Direct on-site corporate recreation and/or fitness programs for corporations.
- Manage city, county and/or state recreation and leisure services agencies.

RPTA majors at Sacramento State will learn the skills to manage people, programs and events in a variety of settings that include city parks and recreation programs, state and national parklands, hotels, playgrounds, hospitals, clinics, forests, beaches, health clubs, tourism destinations and non-profit community centers. Students will also gain an understanding of professional advocacy, ethics and current evaluation procedures applicable in a variety of employment settings.

RPTA students and graduates will find a wide range of internship and job opportunities with public and private agencies in the Greater Sacramento Region.

For more information regarding RPTA undergraduate, graduate or minor programs, please contact the RPTA main office at Solono Hall 4000, (916) 278-6752, or visit our website at: www.csus.edu/hhs/rpta

Please contact us if you need this in an alternative format.
You will receive a Bachelor of Science in Recreation Administration with an emphasis on your choice of either Recreation and Park Management or Recreation Therapy.

Recreation and Park Management
In this concentration, students, through their choice of RPTA elective courses, focus on one of three following areas:

Community Recreation Management – These courses focus on skills needed for working with public recreation and park agencies at the city, county, regional and state levels (e.g., city or county Department of Parks and Recreation), special districts (e.g., East Bay Regional Park District) and/or non-profit agencies (e.g., after-school programs, programs for seniors, summer camps, etc.) and campus recreation facilities. Students who take courses are being trained for positions that involve planning, implementing, managing and evaluating comprehensive recreation programs in public and nonprofit settings.

Commercial Recreation, Tourism and Hospitality Management – These courses focus on the basics of entrepreneurial businesses, and the skills needed for working with for-profit, commercial recreation agencies (e.g., resorts, hotels, cruise lines, event planners, travel agencies). Students who take courses are being trained for positions in enterprises which offer leisure services and/or products for a profit. Examples include clubs and spas, resorts, ski areas, theme parks and the hospitality industry.

Park and Recreation Resource Management – These courses focus on skills needed for working with agencies that provide opportunities for outdoor recreation (e.g., the Forest Service), agencies that manage natural resources (e.g., the National Park Service), and agencies that plan for and manage outdoor recreation experiences and resources (e.g., the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Planning Division). Students who take courses are being trained for positions as park rangers and managers, interpreters of natural and cultural history, managers of visitors to parks, and outdoor recreation planners.

Recreation Therapy
In this concentration, students take courses that provide them with the skills necessary to work within a broad spectrum of health care. These courses focus on methods for improving and maintaining physical, cognitive, emotional and social functioning, preventing secondary health conditions, and enhancing independent living skills and the overall quality of life. Recreation Therapy uses treatment (recreational therapy), education and recreational opportunities to achieve its goals. Professionals with this degree can work in clinical settings such as rehabilitation hospitals and mental health hospitals. There are also employment opportunities in public settings such as city park and recreation departments, and in non-profit settings (adaptive sports, white water raft guide, youth camps, travel companies, etc.). Courses in this concentration include: Recreation therapy principles and practices, Recreation therapy and contemporary aspects of disability, Recreation therapy facilitation techniques, Recreation therapy management and advancement of the profession, and Recreation therapy assessment and documentation.