Graduate Programs

**MS in Health and Human Performance**

The health and human performance program provides preparation at the master’s level with the option of health promotion. The 36-hour degree offers a Thesis and Non-thesis (Creative Component) option. The program focuses on advancing the students understanding of the proximal and distal determinants of mental and physical health.

**PhD in Health, Leisure and Human Performance**

The purpose and focus of this program is to prepare excellent entry-level research scholars for formal and informal learning organizations. They may serve in such roles as faculty members at colleges and universities and scholar practitioners in the workplace. Students meet their career needs and goals through (1) community-based, translational research and (2) classroom experiences focusing on social justice and diversity. The option in health and human performance is designed to permit flexibility within the Health discipline while assuring that all students in the program are provided the opportunity to develop research skills which facilitate functioning as future faculty members or scholar practitioners.

**Master of Science in Leisure Studies**

Beyond the baccalaureate level, the program in leisure studies provides preparation at the master's level across the discipline. Students develop a plan of study, under the advisement of a graduate committee and may focus on various emphasis areas in recreation, parks and leisure services or in recreational therapy. Graduates of the master's degree are typically employed in management and administrative positions in a wide variety of recreation, parks and leisure service settings. Graduates with a master’s degree with the focus on Recreational Therapy are typically employed in healthcare settings to include hospitals, physical rehabilitation facilities, behavioral health, facilities, long-term care facilities and other facilities focused on healthcare. These include areas such as campus recreation, municipal parks and recreation, military recreation, YMCAs, state parks and others. The master’s degree is 36 credit hours beyond the bachelor’s degree and many graduate assistantships are available for qualified students.

**PhD in Health, Leisure and Human Performance, with an option in Leisure Studies**

Students seeking the terminal degree in Leisure Studies engage in the PhD in HLHP. Those completing this program are well prepared for entry-level positions as faculty members in a wide range of colleges and universities. To facilitate student readiness to work in academia, doctoral students work closely with faculty, engage in coursework and examinations, and participate in opportunities for experiences in teaching, scholarship and service. Core learning experiences include an understanding of curriculum, applied ethics and administration, as well as developing an understanding of the common tripartite mission of most universities - scholarship, teaching, and service. The PhD requires 60 hours of coursework beyond the master’s degree; many graduate assistantships are available for qualified students.