



Recreation Administration

Student Handbook



2025-2026

California State University, Fresno Department of Recreation Administration

Welcome to the Department of Recreation Administration

We are thrilled to have you join our community of students, faculty, and professionals passionate about recreation, parks, and tourism. The Department of Recreation Administration is dedicated to providing you with a high-quality education and a supportive environment to help you achieve your career goals.

As you begin your academic journey with us, we want to ensure that you have a clear understanding of our department's expectations, policies, and procedures. This handbook is designed to provide you with essential information to help you navigate your time with us. Our faculty members are committed to excellence and are dedicated to helping you succeed.

We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the contents of this handbook and to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to support you every step of the way.

Remember: If you have any questions or need clarification on anything, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO ASK!

"Choosing to study recreation was one of the best decisions I made in my life. Recreation careers enable students to have a positive impact in their communities, environment, work, and the lives of others."- Kesa Channoy, 2011

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Recreation Administration was established at Fresno State in 1959. The Department offers an undergraduate degree in Recreation Administration for individuals committed to the recreation, parks, and tourism profession. As a faculty, we believe self-determined, full engagement in leisure provides a valuable foundation for a high quality of life for all people. Opportunities for such engagement are provided by government, non-profit, and commercial entities so that a full range of services are made available that include choice of activity, cost, time, location and level of instruction or involvement.

The recreation and tourism profession comprises the second largest industry in the United States. Our graduates are leaders in a wide variety of recreation settings including: city and county agencies; state and federal parks; youth agencies; non-profit agencies; camps; detention centers; resorts; membership clubs; travel and tourism; hotel guest services; employee services; armed forces recreation; convention and visitor bureaus; stadiums and arenas; outdoor adventure programs; special event companies; sports clubs; rehabilitation and psychiatric hospitals; and programs for people with disabilities.

It is our mission to prepare students in the breadth and depth of the leisure service industry and profession. Our nationally accredited curriculum centers on relevant project-based and experiential learning methods designed to foster career preparation. Students graduating from

our department will be able to implement recreation programs and manage facilities serving diverse populations.

CURRICULUM

“CSU Fresno offers a Recreation program that will prepare you for your future career in the recreation industry. You will leave feeling confident in both yourself and your skills.”- Erica Banta, 2013

Our curriculum is accredited by the Council on Accreditation: Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT). Additional information about our accreditation may be found at <https://accreditationcouncil.org/>. The Department offers a Bachelor of Science degree, six Minors (Hospitality; Recreation; Special Event Planning; Sports and Entertainment Facility Management; Tourism; Youth Development Programming) as well as five certificates. The faculty is committed to providing a high-quality professional preparation program in recreation, parks, and tourism, founded on a competency-based curriculum. Our graduates acquire specific competencies as identified by practitioners, our advisory board, faculty, and COAPRT. These competencies are related to leadership, program planning, recreation and leisure-oriented activities, budgeting and financial management, evaluation of programs, personnel administration, professional ethics and philosophy, research techniques, public relations and marketing, communication skills, organizational systems, laws and legislation, facility planning and management, administration, and therapeutic techniques.

Professional preparation is provided within the major for five distinct option areas: **Community Recreation, Youth Development, and Senior Services; Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resource Management; Recreation Therapy; Special Events and Tourism; and Sports and Entertainment Facility Management.** Students develop specific competencies in the areas of marketing, program planning, supervision, and facility management. Also, depending upon their option, it can include business administration, outdoor recreation management, or community and youth services. Students in recreation therapy acquire specific competencies related to physiology, life span development, foundations of therapeutic recreation service, methods in therapeutic recreation, abnormal psychology, facilitation techniques, and individual and small group counseling. Please see our website for specific course requirements for each option area.

At the completion of their studies, students complete a 12-unit, full-time internship with an approved agency under the guidance of a qualified professional. The internship setting is dependent upon the student's option.

Minors

Enhance your academic experience by pursuing a minor in one of our six exciting fields:

- [Hospitality](#)
- [Recreation Administration](#)
- [Special Event Planning](#)
- [Sports and Entertainment Facility Management](#)
- [Tourism](#)
- [Youth Development Programming](#)

By completing a minor, you'll gain a specialized skillset that can be applied to a wide range of careers. These minors require 24 units of core and elective courses, which are outlined in the California State University, Fresno catalog.

Certificates

The Department offers five certificates (12-16 units). These are designed to enhance professional preparation skills in specific areas. All coursework to be applied to certificates must be completed with a C or better.

Students complete an application after completion of all coursework applicable to certificate. You do not have to be a recreation major to complete a certificate and students in any option may earn any certificate. All certificates include enrollment in RA 115 concurrent with the core course of the certificate. RA 115 requires the completion of 75 hours of service related to the certificate area. Specific course requirements for each certificate may be found at <https://chhs.fresnostate.edu/recreation/degrees-certificates/certificates.html>.

Correctional Recreation

This certificate of special study is intended to explore the specialty of correctional recreation. The need for trained correctional recreation employees can be found in federal and state prisons, county jails, and juvenile justice centers.

The certificate is awarded to undergraduate students who complete 12 units of upper-division coursework selected to provide an overview of correctional recreation and the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in this career field. The certificate is open to all students. All coursework to be applied to this certificate must be completed with a minimum grade of C.

Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resource Management

This certificate program is designed for students pursuing a professional interest in perceived risk and wilderness activities within settings such as youth organizations, religious groups, travel and tourism, and schools and colleges. Adventure education is explored through courses using group initiative and perceived risk activities to foster personal development. The certificate prepares students to facilitate ropes courses, climbing walls, mobile initiative courses, and natural resource-based pursuits such as rock climbing, backpacking, cross-country skiing, and other outdoor activities. Recreation majors in the Adventure Recreation and Tourism option can earn this certificate with just 3-4 additional units of courses. Serving Youth At-Risk

The certificate in Serving Youth At-Risk is designed for students pursuing an interest in youth based and community organizations such as schools, human service agencies, city and county recreation programs, and alternative education programs. Courses will provide an overview of the critical issues facing youth and the service concerns associated with meeting their needs.

Students will explore environmental, societal, family, and school influences on today's youth.

Hands on experience will provide students with the opportunity to

compare theory to practice. Recreation majors in the Community Recreation, Youth Development, and Seniors Services option can earn this certificate with just one additional three-unit course.

This certificate is also ideal for students majoring in areas such as Liberal Studies, Sociology, Criminology, Social Work, and Psychology.

Special Event Planning

The certificate in Special Event Planning is designed to prepare students to plan large community events such as street fairs, festivals, convention center events, major fund-raising events, corporate events, and joint sponsorship events. The certificate is appropriate for those students seeking employment in community-based recreation agencies, corporate recreation, community non-profit organizations, convention centers, and any business dealing with special event planning. Recreation majors in the Special Event Planning and Community Recreation, Youth Development, and Seniors Services options can earn this certificate with just one additional three-unit course. Students from many majors such as Business, Marketing, Sociology and Public Health also find this certificate useful.

Sports and Entertainment Facility Management

The certificate in Sports and Entertainment Facility Management is designed to prepare students to work in arenas, stadiums, performing arts centers, convention centers, and other public assembly facilities. These facilities may host sporting events, concerts, cultural arts events, holiday events, family shows, trade shows, conventions, and other events. RA majors not in the Sports and Entertainment Management option can earn this certificate with four additional courses. This could also be an ideal certificate for students who major in Business, Kinesiology, Mass Communications and Journalism, Theater Arts, or other majors.

COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS

The Recreation Administration department uses a variety of methods to keep you informed and engaged:

- In-class announcements: Your instructors will keep you up-to-date on department events, volunteer opportunities, scheduling changes, and more.
- Student listserv: Once you complete the Recreation Administration Major Advising Information form, you'll be added to our listserv, where you'll receive important department announcements and volunteer opportunities. You can also request to join or leave the listserv by contacting our office.
- Social media: Follow us on Instagram ([@fresnostaterecadmin](#)), Facebook ([@FresnoStateRecAdmin](#)), and LinkedIn ([Recreation Administration](#)) for part-time and full-time job announcements, student, faculty, and alumni achievements, and profession-related information.
- RA bulletin board: Across the hall from our office, you'll find the RA bulletin board, where you can find job announcements and other profession-related information.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Students are encouraged to pursue scholarship opportunities through the Scholarship Office in Joyal. The department has one annual scholarship, the *Cynthia Goddard Endowed Scholarship*. This scholarship honors the memory of Cynthia Goddard, an exceptional student and service minded individual who died from cancer two years after her graduation from CSUF. Applications are accepted throughout the year until April through the CSUF Scholarship Office <http://www.fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/scholarships/>. This scholarship requires a minimum GPA of 3.5 plus a record of outstanding community service in health related areas.

In addition, the California Parks and Recreation Foundation and the CPRS District VII Board, post annual calls for applications. Other professional organizations occasionally offer general scholarship and/or conference scholarship opportunities as well. Information about these opportunities is provided in class, posted on bulletin boards, the Facebook page, or forwarded to students via the RA student listserv.

PRE-INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

“A critical part of developing in this field of work is being involved and volunteering. I know that being a college student is time consuming and financially straining, but volunteer whenever you can. Volunteering will give you experience, connections for future employment, recommendations and will allow you to build your resume.”- Travis Cope, 2011

Entry level positions for most agencies in the recreation industry require a minimum of one year experience in addition to a degree. Prior to internship, students are required to have a minimum of 200 hours of paid and/or voluntary experience within their option in the recreation, parks, tourism, hospitality, sports, and/or entertainment industry. To ensure a well-rounded experience, hours should be obtained from a variety of agencies and types of positions within the students' option. Students should consult with their faculty advisor to verify that a paid or voluntary experience will count toward this requirement. Experience may date back to high school graduation or five years, whichever is most recent.

While 250 hours is the required minimum, **1000 hours are recommended and expected**. Any hours the student is required to complete as part of RA courses will count toward the 1000 hours (hours completed as part of an RA course may count toward the required 250 hours if those hours are approved by the students' advisor as relating to the students' option). The 1000 hours may encompass experiences within the recreation industry outside of the student's option (i.e. a Special Event Planning major could get credit for working at an after-school program).

“Outside of the classes what helped me the most was the emphasis that the department had on obtaining experience during my time at Fresno State. Because they expected me to obtain so many hours of internship/volunteer experience I was able to increase my recreation experience. One thing I've noticed is recreation agencies require a lot of experience. I've been able to gain experience in a lot of different areas of interest and not only did it help improve my resume it also helped me learn what direction I wanted to pursue.”- Javier Ramirez, 2010

In order for hours to be counted, there must be documentation in the student's file. Students should request verification from their agency supervisor as soon as possible to minimize a delay. A sheet outlining the necessary information is available in the Department office and at <https://www.fresnostate.edu/chhs/recreation/students/policies-and-forms.html>. If the supervisor is no longer available, students are encouraged to go to the human resources department at the agency.

Acceptance of hours is at the discretion of the department faculty. Students should consult with their faculty advisor if they have any questions. Final verification of hours will occur during RA 180.

Qualified Experiences

The hours are to be completed in a variety of recreation agencies or businesses identified within the recreation, parks, tourism, hospitality, sports and entertainment industries. The hours must represent an appropriate variety from the students' option.

Breadth of Experiences

"Even though I had a great deal of experience, most of the experience that I had prior to graduating was all in the same area, and I wish I had expanded more. Your professors give you this advice – get experience – listen to them."- Brian Westbay 2010

The hours should offer the student a variety of experiences and not be completed in just one or two settings or with just one or two age groups. It is recommended the student complete 1,000 hours in the following categories:

50-500	Public recreation setting (federal, state, county, city, special district, university).
50-500	Non-profit setting (YMCA, YWCA, Boys & Girls Club, church, scouting, Corporate/employee, youth service agency, senior center, or camps).
50-500	Commercial setting (outdoor/outfitter, entertainment, theme park, resort, Convention center, stadium or arena, travel/tourism, hospitality, or retail).
50-200	Second or third agency and/or business in the categories mentioned above
20-200	*Professional development/specialization/general.

*This category will include:

- Elected position or chair of the Student Recreation Association or Sports and Entertainment Management Club
- Attendance at a professional organization meeting such as: California Park and Recreation Society District VII or other professional association.
- Attendance at a professional conference
- Additional hours completed in excess of the categories listed above which a student may want to develop a specialization.
- Other agencies in the Recreation and Human Services field as approved by the department faculty.

Examples of Qualified Experiences

Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resource Management

- Ropes Course/Experiential Education Facilitator
- Organized Camping Director
- Adventure Guide and Commercial Outfitter (backcountry, whitewater)
- Outdoor and Environmental Educator (e.g., outdoor science schools)
- Ecotourism (environmental planning, tour guiding)
- Forestry (interpreter, recreation planning)
- Nature Center manager/interpreter

Special Events and Tourism

- Tour Manager/Guide
- Program Development, Supervision, and/or Instruction at a commercial recreation agency
- Marketing Development and Implementation at a commercial recreation agency
- Facility Management Guest Services
- Special Event Assistant or Coordinator
- Special Event Assistant or Coordinator

Community Recreation, Youth Development, and Seniors Services

- Afterschool Program Staff
- Camp staff
- Sports Coaching/Officiating
- Activity Specialist (arts, crafts, drama, music, dance, exercise, games, environmental education)
- Aquatics (life guarding, swim instruction, pool management)
- Special Event Assistant or Coordinator
- Church Youth Coordinator (when leading recreation activities)
- Student life, Campus Recreation or Residence Assistant
- Ropes Course Staff

Sports and Entertainment Facility Management

- Crowd Safety & Security
- Box Office/Ticketing Assistant
- Event Assistant or Coordinator at a stadium or arena
- Public Assembly Facility Crew
- Venue Operations Assistant at a SEFM venue
- Venue Marketing Assistant at a SEFM venue
- Venue Management Guest Services at a SEFM venue

Recreation Therapy

It is recommended students gain experience with two or more of the populations below in multiple settings

- Developmental Disabilities (Community Recreation, Intermediate Care Facility, State Hospital)
- Older Adults (Senior Center, Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing Facility)
- Mental Health (Inpatient, Outpatient, Intermediate Care Facility, State Hospital, Correctional Facility)
- Physical Disabilities (Community Recreation, Inpatient, Outpatient)

Professional Conference

Prior to internship, all students are required to attend at least one in-person, non-local conference that is specific to their option area and approved by their option advisor. Regional, state, and national conferences are scheduled throughout the year by many professional organizations and provide an opportunity for professional development and networking as well as a chance to learn the newest advances in the field.

Dates, locations and program information will be provided in classes, or students may seek out information from the organizations. As available, conference information is also posted on the bulletin board across from the RA office. Conferences typically range from one-three days. A one-day conference will typically last six-eight hours. Non-local means a conference outside of the Fresno/Tulare/Madera area. Students should review this requirement with their option advisor who will provide information on conferences that will meet the requirement for their option.

The department faculty believe strongly in providing students with the opportunity to attend conferences and other professional development events. When funding is available, the department will assist students to pay for registration and/or other expenses related to attending a conference. Additional information will be provided to students regarding this funding, how to apply, and how to be reimbursed, as it becomes available.

"I encourage everyone to attend as many conferences as possible, I know the entrance fees might be a little bit deep, but in the long run it is definitely worth it. Attending conferences will open so many doors for you, and the opportunities will come your way."- Andrew Watson, 2009

INTERNSHIPS

Students take RA 184i (Internship in Recreation, Parks, Tourism and Recreation Therapy) in their last semester prior to graduation. This is a full-time commitment to an agency for a minimum of 35 hours per week for 15 consecutive weeks (38 hours per week for Recreation Therapy students). All other major, general education, and elective coursework must be complete prior to the internship. The internship is an opportunity to gain practical experience while learning about the profession under the mentorship/supervision of a professional. No other coursework is taken during this semester. In order to be eligible to register for RA 184i, the minimum 200 hours of pre-internship experience within degree option must be complete and approved.

It is not required that a student receive compensation for the completion of the internship placement; however, the department realizes the financial hardship placed upon the student to complete the internship, therefore, arrangements for compensation can be made between the student and the agency and generally do not involve the department. In such cases, the student may be compensated for up to twenty (20) hours work per week. If an agency agrees to compensate the student, the agency is responsible for all employment rules, regulations, and laws. If monetary compensation is not possible, the agency may agree to provide room and/or board, and/or vehicle mileage, and/or payment to workshops, seminars, and conferences. Students may submit a petition to the faculty requesting approval for payment beyond twenty (20) hours per week.

Internships may be completed at an approved site anywhere within California. A list of approved internship agencies is made available to students in RA 180. Students are encouraged to select from this list, however, students do have the option of applying for an internship at a new agency. Students may apply for an out of state internship if they achieve a major GPA of 3.3 and a Fresno State cumulative GPA of 3.0. Please refer to the *Recreation Administration Internship Manual* for complete information at www.fresnostate.edu/chhs/recreation/policies-forms/index.html.

Internships typically occur during either fall or spring semester. Summer internships are limited and should not be anticipated. The criteria for consideration of a summer internship is: 1) acceptance to graduate school the following fall; 2) member of ROTC with deployment orders for the fall; 3) unique summer-only internship experience. The availability for summer internships is determined on a year-to-year basis and is outside of department control.

“You will probably hear this over and over again, but don’t procrastinate while searching for an internship. The process can take a while and deadlines will come faster than you realize. It is important also to keep your options open. Don’t have your heart too set on only one agency; things sometimes fall through so it’s wise to have a solid back up. It is very hard to find a well-paying internship, so you should start saving money now in order to make life a little easier if you are working unpaid 40-hour work weeks.”- Travis Cope 2011

RA 180 is taken the semester prior to internship. This course provides the framework for assisting students to select the appropriate internship experience and prepares students for their internship. In order to receive permission to register for RA 180, students must meet with their advisor and provide their advisor with the current DPS showing that all courses (with the exception of RA 180 and RA 184i) is in progress, complete, or has been registered for. At this time, students should also be prepared to verify the completion (or work toward completing) the required 200 hours of pre-internship experiences and their progress toward documenting those hours.

“Go for the one [internship] that will take you the farthest. You will be a skillful worker and can greatly benefit a recreation agency upon completion of your classes. Be sure to choose the one that can be the stepping stone to your career endeavors, the agency you intern at can really help you get to where you want to be. Select the one that can offer you the most learning opportunities.”- Kellen Dart, 2013

Commencement

The ultimate goal...Graduation! Each College hosts a commencement in the Spring. The College of Health and Human Services will post the details on their website:

<https://chhs.fresnostate.edu/commencement/index.html>

FACULTY

“CSU Fresno’s Recreation Administration Department is made up of professors whom are truly interested in the success of their students. I found my favorite aspect of the recreation department was our incredible teachers and the relationships I was able to develop with each of them.”- Erica Banta, 2013

The faculty of the Department of Recreation Administration is a highly qualified group of professionals with expertise in a variety of areas within the field of recreation. Their diverse areas of interest for practice and research include leisure behavior, public and non-profit agency program management, youth at-risk, commercial recreation, resort recreation, travel/tourism, theme parks, special event planning, experiential education, adventure-based recreation, and recreation therapy. Faculty members are student-oriented, dedicated to providing a high quality education and committed to promoting the field of recreation. They are well known in the field, serving on boards of local, state, and national organizations. Faculty members have also written textbooks, articles for professional journals, and presented at state, national, and international conferences.

The department currently includes both full-time faculty members and part-time instructors. Each full-time faculty member posts his or her office hours for the semester on the bulletin board outside his or her office door. Office hours are also listed on course syllabi.

Dr. Samuel Lankford PHS 107 559.278.2624 slankford@csufresno.edu

Ph.D. University of Oregon

M.A. University of Oregon

M.A. California State University, Chico

B.A California State University, Chico

Position: Professor and Advisor of the Special Events and Tourism Option, Coordinator of Special Event Planning Certificate, and Minor, and Internship Coordinator.

Teaches: Foundations and Careers in RPT, International Tourism. Research Interests: Tourism and Recreation Development.

Dr. Michael Mahoney PHS 121 559.278.5263 mmahoney@csufresno.edu

Ed.D. Temple University

M.Ed. Temple University

B.S. California State University, Chico

Position: Chair, Professor and Advisor of the Sports & Entertainment Facility Management Option and Coordinator Sports & Entertainment Facility Management Certificate, and Minor.

Teaches: Crowd Safety for Sports and Entertainment, Sports & Entertainment Facility Management; Sports & Entertainment Facility Booking, Promotion, and Box Office Operations; Sports & Entertainment Facility Operations; Conference, Convention, and Meeting Planning; Recreation and Parks Facilities Planning and Operations.

Research Interests: Facility, Crowd, and Security Management Issues at Sport and Entertainment Venues; Fan Satisfaction at Sport and Entertainment Venues; Baseline Qualifications and Professional Development for Venue Management and Operations Professionals.

Dr. Nancy Nisbett PHS 127 559.278.7886 nancyni@csufresno.edu
Ed.D. University of California, Davis/California State University, Fresno
M.A. Central Michigan University
B.A. Michigan State University
Position: Professor and Advisor of the Recreation Therapy Option, Coordinator Correctional Recreation Therapy Certificate.
Teaches: Internship in Recreation Parks and Tourism; Diversity and Inclusive Recreation, Trends and Issues in Therapeutic Recreation, Foundations of Therapeutic Recreation.
Research interests: Benefits of Recreation for Youth; Recreation Interventions for Incarcerated Youth and Youth At-risk; Inclusive Recreation; Professional Ethics; Curriculum and Pedagogy.
Interests and Hobbies: Traveling, theater, hiking, college sports and other outdoor pursuits.

Dr. Brandon Taylor PHS 139 559.278.2315 brtaylor@csufresno.edu
D.Mgt. University of Phoenix
M.S. Fresno Pacific
B.S. California State University, Fresno
Position: Associate Professor, Advisor of the Community Recreation, Youth Development, and Senior Services Option and Coordinator Serving Youth At-Risk Certificate.
Teaches: Programming in RPT, Community and Non-Profit Recreation Services.
Interests and Hobbies: Basketball, golf, watching my kids participate in their leisure pursuits, and cooking great BBQ.

Dr. Jason Whiting PHS 125 559.278.8749 jawhiting@csufresno.edu
Ph.D. University of Georgia
M.S. Western Illinois University
B.S. Western State College of Colorado
Position: Associate Professor, Advisor of the Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resource Option and Coordinator Adventure Based Programing Certificate.
Teaches: Introduction to Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, Leisure and Human Behavior; Special Event Planning; Foundations of Commercial Recreation.
Research interests: Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management and Conservation; Outdoor Recreation Participation; Environmental Education.
Interests and Hobbies: Paddling, biking, tele-skiing, mountaineering, distance running, traveling, and spending time with family.

Dr. Jody H. Hironaka-Juteau PHS 233 559.278.2963
jhironak@csufresno.edu
Ed.D. Fielding Graduate University
M.A. California State University, Fresno
B.S. California State University, Fresno
Position: Professor and Advisor of the Recreation Therapy Option
Teaches: Leadership in Recreation, Parks and Tourism, Diversity and Inclusive Practices in Recreation Therapy and Recreation, Supervision and Administration in Recreation, Parks and Tourism.
Research interests: Diversity and Inclusion, Action Research, Interprofessional Education and Collaboration, Higher Education and Leadership, Therapeutic Humor.
Interests and Hobbies: Spending time with family and friends, golfing, cycling, traveling, ukulele-ing, yo-yo-ing.

Primary Part-Time Faculty

*Part time faculty do not have phone extensions or dedicated office hours. If you would like to contact them, please do so by email.

Eric Aller	ericaller@mail.fresnostate.edu
Justin Butchert	jbutchert@csufresno.edu
Audrey Gonzalez	
Jill Lankford	jlankford@csufresno.edu
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Samara Trimble	strimble@csufresno.edu
Lerin Winchester	lwinchester@csufresno.edu

RECREATION ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Main Office 559.278.2838	Professional Human Services Building 121 (PHS 121) rasa@csufresno.edu
Mailing address:	5310 N. Campus Drive, M/S PH103, Fresno, CA 93740

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Dean	McLane Hall 178	559.278.4004
Dean Dr. Kara Zografos	Interim Associate Dean Dr. Miguel Perez	

ALUMNI

The department is fortunate to have a strong network of alumni in the community. These professionals are excellent resources for students and often serve as guest speakers, volunteer and internship supervisors, interview panelists, and mentors. Students are encouraged to utilize these contacts as they develop hands on experience in the field.

Once students graduate, they are encouraged to maintain contact with the department, become a fan on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/FresnoStateRecAdmin, our Instagram page, <https://www.instagram.com/fresnostaterecadmin/>, our LinkedIn page, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/fresno-state-recreation-administration/> and are also encouraged to become members of the CSUF Alumni Association <https://alumni.fresnostate.edu/get-involved/index.html>.

Outstanding Alumni

Every year, the faculty selects one alumnus to honor as our *Outstanding Alumni*. This honor is given to an alumnus who has demonstrated extraordinary service to the profession, the community, and/or the department. The honoree has his or her name added to the perpetual plaque in the RA office.

ADVISORY BOARD

The department has an extremely qualified and active group of professionals who serve as advisory board members. These individuals represent all five options and consist of alumni and non-alumni. The advisory board is called on to provide insight into the curriculum through review and input on learning outcomes and assignments. The advisory board also assists in promoting the department and its students. The board typically meets once a year, while board members can also be seen as guest speakers and assisting with department functions such as faculty searches and program review.

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION ADMINISTRATION POLICIES

Below are department policies that directly impact students. Questions regarding the policies of the department should be addressed to the Department Chair.

Student Representation

Each year, a student representative is selected by the student body (via the Student Recreation Association), to serve as *Student Liaison* to the department faculty. The *Student Liaison* attends all department meetings and is a conduit for sharing questions or concerns of the students as well as to take back relevant information to the students. Contact information for the *Student Liaison* is made available from the Recreation Association Board or at the RA department office. Students are encouraged to bring any questions or concerns related to the department to the *Student Liaison* to bring to department meetings. Students are also invited to attend regularly scheduled faculty meetings on their own. Student concerns are an agenda item at every department meeting. Date, time, and location of these meetings may be obtained from the Department Chair. Students should notify the Chair in advance so that their item may be placed on the agenda.

Student Petitions

Under unique circumstances a student may submit a petition to the Department of Recreation Administration seeking special approval. This may include subjects such as a substitution or transfer of courses, pre-requisite waiver, pre-internship hour approval, or internship placement requests. Petitions are to be in the form of a well written letter to the faculty explaining the request and its justification. Students are encouraged to consult with a faculty advisor for format and content expectations. Petitions should be submitted to the Department Chair and will be reviewed by faculty during regularly scheduled department meetings.

Course Fee Refund

In the event of extraordinary circumstances (for serious and compelling reasons), a student may apply to receive a refund of course fees (REC 75, 83, 86, 87) if the student is unable to participate in the course after the drop deadline. The request should be made in writing and approved by the Department Chair no later than 10 working days in advance of the first day of the course/fieldtrip (first time expense is incurred or deposit becomes non-refundable to outfitter. Proof of serious and compelling reason is required).

Assessment Data

Each semester, the department collects data using measurement tools designed for program review and outcomes assessment purposes (program review and accreditation). This data is used only for this purpose and is not used for instructor evaluation or any other non-related functions. For more information consult Department Chair.

Problem Resolution

Concerns related to department function should be addressed through the student representation process described above. As noted in RA course policies, any concerns related to individual instructors or course procedures should be addressed first with the appropriate instructor. If not resolved at that level, students are encouraged to consult with the Department Chair.

RA Course Policies

Participation: Regular and on-time attendance is a basic Department expectation. If a class is missed, it is the students' responsibility to obtain the material missed. Students should recognize that entering a class late is disruptive to both the instructor and the other students and should make every effort to be on time.

Participation includes bringing appropriate materials to class, completing assignments on time, and completing any reading assignments prior to class so that the student is able to take part in class discussions.

Professionalism:

The faculty regards recreation administration and leisure studies as a profession that is recognized at state and national levels. As such, students are expected to behave in a professional manner. Basic Department expectations include professional behavior in the classroom and during all field experiences. Attendance, preparedness, effort, and honesty, in combination with respect for faculty and other students are all considered under the heading of professional behavior. The goal is to create a community of learners in a positive, insult-free

zone. A student who is unable to conduct himself or herself in a courteous and respectful manner will be asked to remove himself or herself from the classroom. Cell phone and other electronic communication devices are to be turned off during class and stored out of the way of class activity.

Problem Resolution:

Any student who has a question about a grade or a class procedure is advised to first approach the course instructor. If the issue is not resolved at this level, the student is encouraged to meet with the Department Chair, Dr. Michael Mahoney, mmahoney@csufresno.edu.

Writing Competency:

The students' ability to effectively communicate in writing is very important. The instructor will evaluate the efforts of each student not only for the content presented but also for spelling, grammar, punctuation, neatness and organization of thought. Unless notified otherwise by the instructor, all written work must be typed and is expected to be high quality work. You may be asked to correct and resubmit a paper that is initially not of acceptable quality. Grades for resubmitted papers will be the average of the original and the revision.

Format Expectations for Written Assignments:

The Department of Recreation Administration faculty has developed the following guidelines to assist students in preparing papers and assignments for submission in RA courses. Papers and assignments submitted that do not meet these expectations will not be graded and will be returned to the student. Style: Times New Roman, font size: 12-point font

1. Spacing: Double space
2. Margins: Standard 1" margins
3. Cover page: Include the title of the assignment, your name, class title, instructor name, and date.
4. Table of contents (if applicable): Include major headings and page numbers
5. Page numbers: Include page numbers. Be sure that these correspond to those listed in the table of contents
6. References and in text parenthetical citations: Use APA form and style (Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. All in-text citations and References must be submitted following APA Publication Manual, 7th edition
(see https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/apa_changes_7th_edition.html and/or the [7th APA author quick guide changes](#)).
7. Staple: Use a staple to attach multiple page assignments. Do not use a paper clip
8. Assignments that are required to be typed must be typed

Alcohol and Illicit Drug Use: The Department of Recreation Administration adheres to the University Policy on Disruptive Classroom Behavior and the Drug Free School Policy. Students are directed to the Division of Student Affairs website for additional information.

- a) In Class - Respect for your classmates, your instructor, and yourself includes attending class free from the effects of alcohol or illicit drug use. If a student displays behavior consistent with alcohol or drug use, the student will be asked to leave class immediately and will not receive credit for attendance or for any in-class activity, exam, or presentation. As per University policy, the instructor is required to inform the Department Chair, Dean of the College, and Vice

President and Dean of Student Affairs and file a Disruptive Classroom Incident Report.

- b) Field Trips - All Recreation field trips, which include any out-of-the-classroom experience, are alcohol and illicit drugs free, they are prohibited at ALL times (before, during, and after the activity as well as evenings on multi-day trips). Any student, enrolled in an RA/REC course and attending a field trip, who possesses or consumes alcohol or illicit drugs at any time during that experience, will at minimum receive a failing grade for that assignment. The event will be documented by the instructor and placed in the student's file. In the case of one-unit activity courses, the use of alcohol or illicit drugs will result in automatic failure of the course. As per University policy, the student will be referred to the Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs for disciplinary action.

Withdrawal Policy:

Every student who gets a late "Withdrawal" (past the second week of the semester) from a course has potentially displaced another student from the opportunity to take that course. Therefore, the department will adhere strictly to the University's policy. Students may drop a course before the end of the second week of class using the standard computer system without need for instructor permission. However, course withdrawals past the end of the second week of class will not be allowed without "serious and compelling" reasons that are documented by appropriate medical or other professional authority. A change of work schedule, lack of interest in the material, failing grades, etc. are not going to qualify as justifiable reasons.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

"This major allows you the opportunity to get out into the world and gain professional experience that will help you in getting your foot in the door to accomplish your dreams. In order to be completely successful, I urge students to take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way in the program. One aspect of the program that I enjoyed was the encouragement for professional development. The professors in the [RA] program encourage students to get out into the professional world via any way possible and network."- Cody Dixon, 2010

"Throughout your time as a student in the RA program, the department will provide a wide variety of connections and networking opportunities from recreation professionals in the community. I recommend that you save all the business cards and contact information you get and put them to good use."- Travis Cope, 2011

Student Organizations

There are a number of organizations and student involvement opportunities on campus. Students are strongly encouraged to consider these opportunities to enhance professional and personal development. The Student Involvement office (3rd floor USU) is a great resource to begin exploring campus opportunities. Within the department, there are two student clubs that provide development and leadership opportunities for students.

Student Recreation Association

Organized and managed by Recreation Administration majors, the Recreation Association is an excellent way to develop and practice leadership and programming skills. Each year, a student board is elected to plan and implement a wide variety of activities. Past activities have included fundraisers, trips, and social events, as well as educational sessions such as First Aid/CPR

classes. The Recreation Association assists in the promotion of the recreation field and recruitment of new students and in the past has provided scholarships for professional development activities for its members.

Membership drives are held each semester with minimal dues to join. For membership information or to find out about upcoming events, check the association's bulletin board in the PHS Building, talk to any of the board members, or check with your faculty advisor. Non-recreation majors are welcome.

Sport and Entertainment Facility Management Club

Advised by Dr. Mahoney, this club raises funds to assist students with venue visitation and networking opportunities. The club is open to all students.

Professional Organizations

Professional development includes joining professional member organizations specific to the student's area of interest. Within the field of recreation, parks, and tourism there are many professional organizations to choose from. These organizations provide resources such as current professional information, opportunities for networking, conferences, research, and internship/job postings. Students are encouraged to become familiar with these organizations and join those that are most appropriate; Below is a sample of organizations. Students should discuss their choices with the department faculty. Most organizations have discounted student rates.

American Camping Association (ACA)	765-342-8456	www.aca-camp.org
Association for Experiential Education (AEE)	303-440-8844	www.aee.org
American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA)	703-683-9420	www.atra-online.org
California and Nevada Festivals Association (Calfest)	530-583-5605	www.calfest.com
California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS)	916-665-2777	www.cprs.org
Event Safety Alliance (ESA)	805-991-7233	www.eventsafetyalliance.org
International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM)	972-906-7441	www.iavm.org
International Live Events Association (ILEA)	800-688-4737	www.ileahub.com
National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)	703-858-0784	www.nrpa.org
Resort and Commercial Recreation Association (RCRA)	630-892-2175	https://www.rcra.org/
Stadium Managers Association (SMA)	515-282-8192	www.stadiummanagers.org

Certifying Bodies

California Board of Recreation and Park Certification (CBRPC) 661-538-1332

www.cbrpc.org *State certification board- students will use this number to obtain RC and RTC certification information.

National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) 845-639-1439

www.nctrc.org *National certification board- TR students will use this number to obtain certification information

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 703-858-0784

www.nrpa.org *National certification- students may use this number to obtain national certification information

Conferences

"I encourage everyone to attend as many conferences as possible, I know the entrance fees might be a little bit deep, but in the long run it is definitely worth it. Attending conferences will open so many doors for you, and the opportunities will come your way."- Andrew Watson, 2009

Regional, state, and national conferences are scheduled throughout the year by many of the organizations listed above. Conferences provide an opportunity for professional development and networking as well as a chance to learn the newest advances in the field. Dates, locations and program information will be provided in classes, or students may contact the organizations for information. As available, conference information is also posted on the bulletin board across from the RA office.

Student Training Stipends

The department faculty believe strongly in providing students with the opportunity to attend conferences and other professional development events. In addition to providing on campus forums, when funding is available, the department provides training stipends for students attending local, state, or national events. The amount of the stipend varies and is dependent upon available funding. Students interested in this opportunity should contact the Department Chair. A registration receipt and proof of attendance are required for reimbursement. Advanced planning is required to obtain these funds. The University will require paperwork to be completed more than two weeks in advance.

E.D.G.E. CHALLENGE COURSE

The department houses the leadership training and challenge course, known as the E.D.G.E. (Experientially Designed Group Effort). This program offers group-oriented activities to foster teamwork, leadership, trust, creativity, and personal awareness.

The E.D.G.E. facility, located behind the South Gym, is comprised of several utility poles connected with cables. Low elements are just inches off the ground providing group challenge activities. High elements, 25- 35 feet off the ground, are perceived risk activities for those seeking peak experiences. The E.D.G.E. course is utilized by both student and community groups. In addition to challenging themselves, students also have the opportunity to become E.D.G.E.

facilitators (paid part-time positions) and assist others to step out on the E.D.G.E. For further information about participating with the E.D.G.E. Course, or employment opportunities, please contact Ryan Soares at rsoares@csufresno.edu.

ADVISING

RA faculty take advising very seriously and are willing to invest their time to assisting students in academic advising and career planning. Students are encouraged to meet with the advisor for their specific option, however, it is allowable for students to choose a different RA advisor if so desired. Please see the faculty information above to determine the appropriate advisor and his/her contact information. Students are expected to meet with their advisor at least once a semester and should pay attention to updates provided in classes and through the department listserv. If you schedule an appointment with an advisor and are unable to keep it, be sure to let your advisor know in advance so that another student has access to that advising time.

During the first advising session, the advisor will review advising expectations with students and ask the student to sign off on the *RA Advising Student Responsibility* form. These expectations will help students to properly prepare for advising sessions and guide students to taking responsibility for their academic progress.

Degree Plans and Certificate Applications

Degree Plans also known as *Advising Sheets* are posted on the Recreation Administration website at <https://chhs.fresnostate.edu/recreation/>. Students are reminded that these plans do not replace formal advising. The plans represent general requirements for the current academic year. Please check your catalog to ensure that all degree requirements have been met. Substitutions to degree requirements (elective options) may only be made with the approval of your department academic advisor. Applications for all certificates are found on the website as well and are also available outside the department office.

Advising Notes

1. Every new major is to complete the *Recreation Administration Major Advising Information* form, available from your advisor or outside the department office and submit it to the office. Students should complete an updated form as needed.
2. As part of the RA 55 course, students complete a "Degree Plan" assignment that schedules all their remaining courses to complete a degree. If a student enters the curriculum with a transfer course in place of RA 55, then the student should meet with their option advisor to create a Degree Plan. Students can also meet with the Department Chair and/or other faculty prior to RA 55 to complete a preliminary Degree Plan.
3. Academic advising is typically conducted each semester concurrent with the release of the schedule of courses for the upcoming semester; however, students may meet with their advisor at any time. Students are encouraged to check regularly with their faculty advisor to ensure that they are on track for graduation.
4. Many RA courses have pre-requisites. It is the student responsibility to be aware of pre-requisite requirements and plan accordingly. The current course catalog is a good resource for pre-requisite information.
5. CR/NC grading is not permitted in the recreation administration major with the exceptions

of REC 74, 75, 82, 84, 86, 88, RA 115, and 192T. Please note the University allows a maximum of 24 credit units to apply toward graduation.

6. General education and elective units may be used toward a minor. Consult the appropriate department chair, or faculty advisor for further information.
7. Students who must complete a course to fulfill the University Upper-Division Writing Skills requirement are advised to take HHS 116W. About 50% of students who take the written test (Upper-Division Writing Examination “UDWE”) pass it. This test is given about twice each semester, and students must pre-register. Call 559-278-2457 to check on the schedule for the tests.
8. Only a grade of C or higher is acceptable for all Recreation Administration courses used in the major (requirements are slightly different for students whose catalog year is prior to 2010, students should consult their catalog).
9. Students may apply for an out of state internship if they achieve a major GPA of 3.3 and a CSUF cumulative GPA of 3.0. See the internship manual for additional information.
10. Graduation requirements may be slightly different depending on the year a student begins at California State University, Fresno or Community College. Students should consult their DPS to determine their catalog year.
11. If a student receives less than a ‘C’ in a course, the course may be repeated. Students should be aware that the University has specific policies regarding the number of units that may be repeated and the number of times a course may be attempted. Students should consult with the Admissions, Records, and Evaluations office for further information.
12. Questions or concerns regarding General Education should be directed to the CHHS Advising and Career Development Center at 559.278.5027 or acdc@csufresno.edu. ACDC office is located in McLane Hall room 276.

University Policies

Students with Disabilities: Upon identifying themselves to the instructor and the university, students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluation. For more information, contact Services to Students with Disabilities in the University Library, Room 1202 (278-2811).

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards and Appeals Process:

<https://studentaffairs.fresnostate.edu/financialaid/policies/sap/index.html>

The following University policies can be found on the web at:

- [Adding and Dropping Classes](#)
- [Cheating and Plagiarism](#)
- [Computers](#)
- [Copyright Policy](#)
- [Disruptive Classroom Behavior](#)
- [Honor Code](#)
- [Title IX](#)

Fresno State is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment for all students. Title IX and CSU policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, and stalking. We understand that sexual violence can impact a students' ability to be successful in the learning environment. We encourage students who have experienced sexual misconduct to seek information on where to report from any member of our faculty or staff in order to ensure that the university can provide students with the necessary resources and supportive measures.

As an instructor, I have a mandatory reporting responsibility as a part of my role. It is my goal that you feel comfortable sharing information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep the information you share private to the extent possible. However, I am required to report any information I receive regarding sexual misconduct or information about a crime that may have occurred during your time at Fresno State.

Students can report incidents of alleged sexual misconduct to either or both of the following resources:

Office of Compliance and Civil Rights | occr.fresnostate.edu | 559.278.5003

Fresno State Police Department | fresnostate.edu/police | 559.278.8400

Students can also report other incidents of discrimination or harassment to:

Office of Compliance and Civil Rights | occr.fresnostate.edu | 559.278.5003

Students can access *confidential support* from two separate resources on campus:

Counseling Services | studentaffairs.fresnostate.edu/health/counseling | 559.278.2734 Survivor

Advocacy Services | fresnostate.edu/survivoradvocate | 559.278.6796

Pregnancy or Related Conditions:

[Pregnant Students](#) or those with related conditions should contact the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Compliance and Civil Rights for assistance. The Title IX Coordinator can coordinate specific actions to prevent sex discrimination and ensure the student's equal access to educational programs or activities.

Office of Compliance and Civil Rights | occr.fresnostate.edu | 559.278.5003

[Parent scholars](#) provides information on priority registration and other support for parenting students.

[Services for Students with Disabilities](#) can also provide assistance with [accommodations](#).

If you have concerns and you are unsure who to contact, please visit the [Concern & Action Guide](#).

Emergency Information:

In the event of an emergency, everyone in the campus community becomes a partner in the response. To ensure you are prepared and remain calm you must make yourself familiar with campus protocols. To contact the Fresno State Police Department call 559.278.8400 from your cell phone or 911 from a campus phone. Prior to an emergency, assess your environment for options depending on the emergency. Identify all possible exit routes, in an emergency always use the closest most safe exit. Once you exit the building go to the predetermined evacuation assembly point, if that is unavailable then go to an open safe space away from the emergency. Identify where and how you can secure yourself inside if you need to shelter in place or hide from a threat. Be prepared to help guide those around you and assist individuals who may be in need. Additional information can be found at www.fresnostate.edu/emergency

University Services

The following University services can be found on the web at:

- [Associated Students, Inc.](#)
- [Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Dream Success Center](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Learning Center Information](#)
- [Student Health and Counseling Center](#)
- [Academic Success Coaching](#)
- [Survivor Advocacy](#)
- [Writing Center](#)