

EICCD/WIU-QC Natural Resources Management Track

Department of Recreation, Park & Tourism Administration, College of Education & Human Services
Western Illinois University–Quad Cities



Program of Study

The EICCD/WIU-QC Natural Resources Management Track is an accelerated curriculum plan that prepares students for careers in outdoor recreation and natural resources management. Students can complete the Associate of Science in Conservation Technology and the Bachelor of Science in Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration with a minor in Environmental Studies in three years of study. This interdisciplinary professional preparation curriculum provides students with in-depth knowledge of the natural and social sciences needed to optimize the management of natural areas for the benefit of both the natural environment and the outdoor recreation visitor. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of learning environments, including classroom instruction, labs, fieldwork, and internship experiences. Careers in natural resources management include conservation scientist, forester, naturalist and environmental educator, park ranger, and wildlife biologist.

Location of Classes

Students following the EICCD/WIU-QC Natural Resources Management Track will take classes at both the Western Illinois University campus in Moline and the Nahant Marsh Education Center in Davenport. The WIU-QC campus offers the latest in classroom teaching technology while the Nahant Marsh Education Center is located on a 262-acre nature preserve on the Mississippi River.

Special Opportunities

- Students graduating with a B.S. in Recreation, Park & Tourism Administration are immediately eligible to sit for the examination to become a certified park and recreation professional and thereby acquire this valuable credential for professional advancement.
- EICCD's Conservation Technology program works closely with local environmental agencies to offer additional training opportunities, such as wildland firefighter, water safety, wilderness first aid, and many more.
- Professional mentors are available to advise students on career options. Mentors help students with résumés and cover letters, introducing them to other leisure services practitioners and inviting them to participate in professional association events.
- Each spring, the department sponsors the Professional Development Conference, during which alumni of the department return and present seminars on topics that are purposeful for young professionals.
- The RPTA department also offers travel workshops, which are opportunities for students to gain additional learning, skills, and professional preparation broadly in the field. The travel workshops are scheduled throughout the year and vary with each course in terms of credit available.
- Students are required to do a 12-week internship that may occur during the fall, spring, or summer. Students research, interview, and select (along with the internship coordinator) an appropriate site. In addition to the site supervisor, each student will be assigned a faculty supervisor to work with during the internship.

RPTA – Quad Cities Curriculum

Professional Core Courses (a total of 33 to 39 SH required)

RPTA 111	3	Introduction to Leisure Services (equivalent to Black Hawk College HPE 211)
RPTA 199	1 to 2	Fieldwork in Leisure Services
RPTA 230	3	Leadership in Leisure Services (equivalent to Black Hawk College HPE 215)
RPTA 235	3	Programming Principles & Applications in Leisure Services
RPTA 251	3	Introduction to Therapeutic Recreation
RPTA 322	3	Administration of Leisure Services
RPTA 376	3	Perspectives in Outdoor Recreation
RPTA 397	3	Research and Evaluation in Leisure Services
RPTA 398	1	Internship Seminar
RPTA 399	1	Issues in Leisure Services
RPTA 482	3	Facility Management
RPTA 499	12	Internship in Leisure Services

In addition to the completion of professional core courses, students must complete a minimum of 10 SH of professional electives in either Leisure Services Administration or Therapeutic Recreation.

RPTA Professional Electives (minimum of 10 SH required)

RPTA 270	3	Introduction to Nonprofit Organizations
RPTA 362	3	Tourism
RPTA 366	3	Commercial Recreation
RPTA 422	3	Advanced Administration of Leisure Services
RPTA 424	3	Fund Raising and Volunteerism in Leisure Services
RPTA 428	3	Youth and Leisure Services
RPTA 448	3	Interpretation of Cultural and Environmental Resources
RPTA 450	1-3	Traveling Workshops (repeatable to 6 SH)
RPTA 460	3	Community Tourism Development
RPTA 461	3	Conference and Convention Planning and Management
RPTA 467	3	Special Event Planning and Management
RPTA 470	0	American Humanics Management Institute: Nonprofit Youth and Human Services Organizations
RPTA 490	1-3	Independent Study



EICCD/WIU-QC Natural Resources Management Track Accelerated Course Sequence

Year 1

Fall

ENG 105	3	English Composition I ¹
BIO 114	4	General Biology I Lab ¹
ENV 111	4	Environmental Science ¹
CNS 150	1	Occupations in Conservation ¹
CNS 105	2	Conservation ¹
RPTA 230	3	Leadership in Leisure Services ²
Total	17	

Spring

BIO 137	2	Field Ecology ¹
BIO 115	4	General Biology II Lab ¹
ENG 106	3	English Composition II ¹
CNS 137	2	Fisheries Management ¹
	3	cultural/historical elective ¹
RPTA 111	3	Introduction to Leisure Services ^{2*}
Total	17	

Summer

CNS 901	2	Wilderness Experience ¹
Total	2	

Year 2

Fall

CNS 131	2	Wildlife Habitat Management ¹
BIO 133	3	Ecology ¹
PHS 172	4	Physical Geology ¹
CHM 122	4	Introduction to General Chemistry ¹
	3	arts/humanities elective ¹
RPTA 235	3	Programming Principles & Applications in Leisure Services ²
Total	19	

Spring

CNS 132	2	Wildlife Management ¹
SPC 112	3	Public Speaking ¹
POL/PSY 111	3	American National Government/Intro to Psychology ¹
MAT 156	3	Statistics ¹
	3	arts/humanities elective ¹
RPTA 376	3	Perspectives in Outdoor Recreation ^{2**}
Total	17	

Summer

CNS 903	2	Employment Experience ¹
Total	2	

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WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY and EASTERN IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Year 3

Fall

ENVR 201	3	Introduction to Environmental Studies ³
GEOG 426	3	Conservation and Management of Natural Resources ³
RPTA 448G	3	Interpretation of Cultural and Environmental Resources ³
RPTA 398	1	Internship Seminar ²
RPTA 322	3	Administration of Leisure Services ²
RPTA 251	3	Introduction to Therapeutic Recreation ²
Total	16	

Spring

ENVR 401	3	Colloquium on Environmental Studies ³
BIOL 350	3	General Ecology ³
RPTA 482G	3	Facility Management ²
RPTA 397	3	Research and Evaluation in Leisure Services ²
RPTA 399	1	Issues in Leisure Services ²
	3	RPTA professional elective ²
	3	RPTA professional elective ²
Total	19	

Summer

RPTA 499	12	Internship in Leisure Services ²
RPTA 490	1	Independent Study ²
Total	13	

¹ EICCD = 62 SH

² RPTA = 48 SH

³ Environmental Studies = 18 SH

⁴ WIU = 63 SH

* RPTA 111 – Offered online

** RPTA 376 counts for both RPTA and Environmental Studies



GradTrac or Guaranteed Graduation

For students entering the natural resources management program, EICCD and Western Illinois University–Quad Cities guarantee that, if you meet degree requirements, you will graduate in four years or less. Your progress will be monitored by professional advisors, which will simplify course scheduling between campuses. In this program, you will have access to all services and resources available at EICCD and WIU-QC.

Cost Guarantee

In addition to guaranteed graduation in four years or less, Western will freeze your tuition and fees for all WIU courses for the length of the natural resources management program. To maintain the tuition and fees freeze, you will need to be continuously enrolled. This cost guarantee applies to all new students, full- and part-time.

Financial Aid

Concerned about college costs? Clinton, Muscatine, and Scott Community Colleges offer excellent value with tuition among the lowest in the state of Iowa. Financial aid is also available in the form of grants, loans, work-study, and a wide range of scholarship opportunities. Students wishing to apply for federal or state financial aid should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.ed.gov. For more information, visit our website at eicc.edu/financialaid, or contact us at (888) 336-3907.

wiu.edu/qc/rpta

Department of Recreation, Park & Tourism Administration–Quad Cities

Western Illinois University–Quad Cities
3561 60th Street • Moline, IL 61265
Admissions: (309) 762-1495
Advising: (309) 762-1988
wiu-qc@wiu.edu

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