

# Recreation, Park & Tourism Administration

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



## Recreation, Park & Tourism Administration (RPTA) Bachelor of Science Degree

The RPTA undergraduate degree is a COPART accredited professional preparation program. RPTA students learn how to enhance people's quality of life through the provision of meaningful and sustainable recreation opportunities. Students study leisure theory, learn how to program events and recreation activities, and develop competencies in management and administration.

## Wide Variety of Career Opportunities

An RPTA bachelor's degree can lead to rewarding careers at municipal parks and recreation departments, YMCAs, convention and visitors bureaus, multi-purpose arenas, special events agencies, museums, national parks, forest preserves, sports organizations, resorts, non-profit agencies, and more.

## Accelerated Curriculum

Complete your education faster, and start your career sooner! The RPTA bachelor's program at the Quad Cities Riverfront campus offers unique accelerated degree tracks so that you can attain your bachelor's degree up to one year faster than if you followed a traditional curriculum path.

## Hands-on Learning

The RPTA curriculum emphasizes hands-on learning with students engaging in many community and campus projects, culminating in a formal 480-hour internship experience.

## Professional Mentoring Opportunities

RPTA students have the unique opportunity to be matched with mentors who are senior staff members from recreation and leisure services agencies in the Quad Cities area. Mentors help students develop their careers by giving students advice and guidance on such things as their résumés and cover letters, introducing them to other recreation services practitioners, and encouraging them to join professional organizations and participate in developmental activities.

## Integrated Bachelor's/Master's Program

Accelerate your bachelor's degree into a master's! RPTA undergraduate students who have completed at least 60 semester hours (SH) of coursework (at least 30 SH of which must have been completed at WIU) and have achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher can apply to fast-track into either the Master of Recreation, Park & Tourism Administration or the Master of Museum Studies. These unique 4 +1 programs use bridge courses to double count 9 SH of undergraduate RPTA courses, reducing the hours needed for the master's degree from 34 to 25 SH.

## RPTA – Quad Cities Curriculum

### Core Courses (a total of 28 SH required)

RPTA 111	3	Introduction to Leisure Services
RPTA 230	3	Leadership in Leisure Services
RPTA 235	3	Programming Principles & Applications in Leisure Services
RPTA 322	3	Administration of Leisure Services I
RPTA 397	3	Research and Evaluation of Leisure Services
RPTA 398	1	Internship Seminar
RPTA 499	12	Internship in Leisure Services

### RPTA Professional Electives (a total of 21 SH required)

RPTA 199	1-2	Fieldwork in Leisure Services
RPTA 270	3	Introduction to Nonprofit Organizations
RPTA 323	3	Administration of Leisure Services II
RPTA 362	3	Tourism
RPTA 366	3	Commercial Recreation
RPTA 376	3	Perspectives in Outdoor Recreation
RPTA 399	1	Issues in Leisure Services
RPTA 422	3	Advanced Administration in Leisure Services
RPTA 424	3	Fund Raising and Volunteerism in Leisure Services
RPTA 428	3	Youth and Leisure Services
RPTA 430	3	Principles of Recreational Sport
RPTA 448	3	Interpretation of Cultural and Environmental Resources
RPTA 450	1-3	Traveling Workshops (repeatable to 6 SH)
RPTA 455	3	Casino Operations
RPTA 460	3	Community Tourism Development
RPTA 461	3	Conference and Convention Planning Management
RPTA 462	3	International Tourism
RPTA 465	3	Tourism Destination Promotion
RPTA 467	3	Special Event Planning Management
RPTA 481	3	Management of Outdoor Recreation Resources
RPTA 482	3	Facility Management
RPTA 485	3	Resource Management for Fly Fisheries
RPTA 487	3	Site Planning in Recreation and Parks
RPTA 488	3	Park Open Space Planning
RPTA 489	3	Park Maintenance and Operations Management

### Approved Minor or Directed Electives (a minimum of 16 SH required)

**Program Total:** 65 SH



## wiu.edu/qc/rpta

### Department of Recreation, Park & Tourism Administration – Quad Cities

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[wiu.edu/coehs/qc/rpta](http://wiu.edu/coehs/qc/rpta)



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