PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Slippery Rock University’s Master of Science Degree program in Adapted Physical Activity is designed specifically for professionals who desire to expand their professional credentials and apply those to health promotion and wellness programs for persons with disabilities of all ages. The health status of persons with disabilities is a critical and emerging need in the human service profession and is a field of employment estimated to grow faster than most other fields by 30% over the next 10 years.

SRU’s Adapted Physical Activity program welcomes students from multidisciplinary backgrounds of study. These backgrounds include anyone with an undergraduate degree in physical education, exercise science, recreation therapy, special education, athletic training or other related fields. Students are expected to enter the program with a basic knowledge of physical activity and, at minimum, an introductory disability course or previous experience in the field.

Roles to be assumed by graduates include adapted physical education specialists in school districts, advanced recreation therapy positions in fitness centers, and corporate fitness facilities working with individuals with disabilities, and in community-based agencies focusing upon the health promotion and physical activity for persons with disabilities across the state and the country.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Masters of Science degree in Adapted Physical Activity offers:

• A 30-credit hour program that can be completed in 12 months
• The largest full-time cohort in this discipline
• A non-thesis program which includes a research project and culminates in a required six-credit hour internship experience
• Hands-on internship opportunities

The graduate program in Adapted Physical Activity is structured to address public policy and health promotion initiatives as described by legislators and health care personnel at the federal and the state levels. The curriculum is issue oriented and prepares its graduates for professional, advocacy, and leadership (PAL) roles in the community and across the state.

CURRICULUM (30 CREDITS)

The curriculum is structured such that admitted students will enter each fall or spring term and progress through 30-credit hours as a full-time cohort.

PE 662: Disability Sport in the 21st Century: A Global Perspective
PE 673: Advanced Study of Disability in Physical Activity
PE 678: Lifespan Physical Activity and Disability
PE 685: Fundraising/Grant Writing in Adapted Physical Activity
PE 694: Health Promotions for Persons with Disabilities
PE 698: Special Topics in Adapted Physical Activity
PE 740: Application of Research for Practicing APA Specialists
PE 745: Leadership Training in Adapted Physical Activity
PE 750: Internship
INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Master of Science in Adapted Physical Activity requires extensive practical experiences for its students to work one-on-one and in small groups directly with individuals with disabilities. For many, the highlight of the program is the Internship experience. APA interns have worked with Paralympic athletes at both the Lakeshore Foundation in Alabama and the Paralympics Olympic site in Colorado. Other internship settings include camps and outdoor wilderness programs, public schools, fitness centers, recreation facilities, rehabilitation hospitals, the SRU equestrian center, pools and sport training facilities.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must submit the following materials along with a completed online graduate application and non-refundable application fee:

1. Official undergraduate transcripts from the applicant’s baccalaureate granting institution and any graduate transcripts (if applicable).
2. Two letters of recommendation - one must be from an undergraduate professor (student is responsible for sending link to evaluator).
3. A 750 word essay describing how this degree will help reach your career goals.

Unconditional admission may be offered to applicants who submit acceptable credentials as listed above, and who have earned an undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or higher (based on a 4.0 scale). Applicants who do not meet all of the above criteria may be offered conditional admission upon recommendation of the graduate coordinator and approval by the dean of the appropriate college. Applicants should have their final official transcripts forwarded directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions.