About the Program

The parks and recreation department at Slippery Rock University offers the park resource management program leading to the Bachelor of Science Degree. The department offers a broad curriculum taught by professional faculty who are recognized as both regional and national experts in their respective disciplines. Faculty members are dedicated to mentoring students while preparing them for careers in park resource management, environmental communication, interpretation, and outdoor leadership.

BS Degree in Parks and Recreation

The park resource management major is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to function as park and recreation professionals in a variety of settings. This is a broad-based, 120-credit hour program.

The park resource management program provides detailed study in natural history, ecology, park management, interpretation, cultural and natural resource management and recreation resource planning. Additionally, students have the opportunity to develop various skills necessary to facilitate others participating in outdoor pursuits. This program is designed for those students interested in employment as park managers, park rangers, park interpreters, environmental educators, and resource planners.

The classes, along with a special emphasis, minor, or certificate supplement our students' marketability. A 12-week internship provides students with practical experience. Internships are performed in national, regional, state and local parks and similar non-profit and environmental related agencies across the country.

Major
• Park and Resource Management (BS)

Related Minors
• Adventure Fitness
• Environmental Science
• Environmental Studies and Sustainability
• Non-Profit Leadership
About the Program (cont.)

In addition to the knowledge obtained in the classroom, experiential learning contributes to the preparation of our students. Practicum experiences for local, state and federal agencies early in the student’s career prepares them for the professional world in which they will soon enter. Our students often participate in practicum experiences at state parks and forests with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Delaware State Parks, the National Park Service, and various other agencies and organizations.

Experiential based opportunities offered each year include certifications in Search and Rescue, Wildland Firefighting, Interpretation, Environmental Education, Leave No Trace, and Wilderness First Responder. In addition to the various certifications, opportunities exist for state, regional, national and international field experiences.

The Department of Parks and Recreation also offers two online graduate degrees for students that may be interested in continuing their education after completing their undergraduate degree. The Master of Science in Park and Resource Management and the Master of Education in Environmental Education are two options available to graduating students.

Student Organizations
• Park Ranger Society
• Environmental Education and Interpretation Club
• Rho Phi Lambda

Career Opportunities
Our students have found internship opportunities and employment with the following agencies:

• National Park Service
• U.S. Forest Service
• U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
• PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
• PA Fish and Boat Commission
• PA Game Commission
• Delaware State Parks
• Carnegie Science Center
• Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium
• The Macoskey Center

Graduates in park resource management find careers as park and recreation managers, nature interpreters, outdoor leaders, resource managers, planners, and park rangers. Our graduates have also found work in various non-governmental organizations.