

# RECREATIONAL THERAPY

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS



### MAJORS

- Recreational Therapy (BS)\*

### MINORS

- Animal-Assisted Interventions
- Recreational Therapy

### GRADUATE PROGRAM

- Pre-Occupational Therapy (SRU) Accelerated 3+3 or Traditional\*
- Pre-Physical Therapy (SRU) Accelerated 3+3 or Traditional\* (MBA)

\*SRU is required by the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement and US Department of Education to notify you whether our program meets the academic licensure/ certification requirements in another state. All jurisdictions have their own requirements for licensure/certification eligibility. SRU is approved to offer programs that may lead to licensure/certification in Pennsylvania. We are unable to determine our program's eligibility in states other than PA. Please review the licensing board contact resource at [www.sru.edu/licensure-certification](http://www.sru.edu/licensure-certification) to seek guidance on the requirements of licensure in your home state or where you would like to practice professionally. Note that state requirements are subject to change at any time and without notice.

**SlipperyRock**  
University

A member of Pennsylvania's State System  
of Higher Education

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

[www.sru.edu](http://www.sru.edu)

### WHAT CAN I DO WITH A RECREATIONAL THERAPY DEGREE?

Do you aspire to help people recover from illness or disability and enhance their quality of life? Recreational therapists (RTs) use recreation, such as sports, art, games, aquatics and music, as well as activity-based interventions as treatment to help remedy symptoms, improve function and enhance the lives of individuals with a variety of needs. As a nationally Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS), you will be uniquely qualified to work with people experiencing illnesses and disabilities and to promote their independence, good health and well-being.

### RECREATIONAL THERAPY AT SRU

Students in the SRU recreational therapy department have an opportunity to work with a variety of clinical populations, engage in experiential learning and study evidence-based research in the field of recreational therapy. The curriculum provides a solid foundation for entry-level practice as a recreational therapist and also offers the opportunity to specialize with minors in the areas of animal-assisted intervention, adventure fitness, aquatics, gerontology, psychology, adapted physical activity, exceptionalities (special education), criminology or non-profit leadership. In addition to these minor/specialty options, the recreational therapy program provides a bridge to graduate studies in recreational therapy and related fields.

### WHY CHOOSE RECREATIONAL THERAPY AT SRU?

- 1. Coursework with integrated lab experiences:** RT students are engaged in a variety of hands-on learning experiences both in and out of the traditional classroom. The program houses a RT clinical lab which offers students the opportunity to work with various clients in a clinical space much like they may find in practice.
- 2. Experienced faculty:** The RT faculty are nationally certified and have direct experience in various settings of service, including physical medicine and rehabilitation, behavioral health, gerontology, camps and community-based programs. They are all involved in both state and national professional leadership positions.
- 3. Projects and research with faculty:** RT majors have numerous opportunities to collaborate with faculty in undergraduate research, project development and conference presentations that are long-standing traditions in the program.
- 4. Support and guidance:** Each student is assigned to a dedicated and experienced faculty member within the department who guides students in their educational journey. These faculty members provide advice on coursework, practical experience opportunities and career options.
- 5. Accreditation:** Our program is accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs/Committee on Accreditation of Recreational Therapy Education. Accreditation means that our program meets or exceeds the industry standards developed by experts in the field and endorsed by the American Therapeutic Recreation Association. SRU was one of the first schools in the country to obtain this accreditation.

## INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SRU recreational therapy students have completed internships at various locations including:

- National Institutes of Health, Maryland
- Veterans Administration Medical Centers
- Burke Rehabilitation Center, New York
- Nationwide Children's Hospital, Ohio
- ReMed Brain Injury Rehabilitation, Pennsylvania
- Cleveland Clinic, Ohio
- Presbyterian Senior Care, Pennsylvania
- Ability 360, Arizona
- Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, Pittsburgh
- Sarah Reed Children's Center, Erie

## CAREER OUTCOMES

While a bachelor's degree can lead to many job opportunities, some students go on to pursue a graduate degree in Recreational Therapy or a related field. Students have secured careers in the following areas:

- Recreational Therapist, Craig Rehabilitation Hospital, Englewood, Colorado
- Recreational Therapist, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Recreational Therapist, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland
- Rehabilitation Therapist, University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio
- Community Life Director, County Meadows Retirement Community, Bridgeville, Pennsylvania
- Outpatient Brain Injury Specialist, ReMed, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Creative Arts Therapist, Ohio Valley Medical Center, Wheeling, West Virginia
- Recreational Therapist, Shepherd Center, Atlanta, Georgia

## CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Active Minds
- Adapted Physical Activity Council
- Best Buddies
- Recreational Therapy Club



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Gabrielle Cunningham, '20

*Recreational Therapist at the Verland Institute*

"Becoming a Recreational Therapy major is one of the best decisions I have ever made! I love developing relationships and assisting others in achieving their personal goals. I can make a difference in another person's life, and that feeling is indescribable. Slippery Rock's RT program prepared me with the knowledge and ability to look at the whole person, before the disability. The professors truly practice what they preach as they are passionate about their work and care about each and every one of their students!"

### Hannah Morgan, '20

*Recreation therapist at the Meadows Psychiatric Center*

"What I've learned from the RT department at SRU will stay with me throughout my career. Not only did I gain knowledge, I've gained the skills and ability to apply that knowledge, which is vital. I've been given many hands on opportunities of real life experience that have taught me so much and leave me feeling truly confident when entering the professional world. There's no doubt in my mind I will make a difference in the world thanks to the RT department at SRU."

### Josie Skibinski, '21

*OTD Student, SRU*

"A Recreational Therapy undergraduate degree prepared me extremely well for my career as an Occupational therapist. Both professions are client-centered, holistic, and aim to help people accomplish their life goals and what they find to be meaningful."

## ACADEMIC CONTACT: FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Patterson Hall  
Martha Kemeny, chairperson  
martha.kemeny@sru.edu  
724.738.4306

[www.sru.edu/majors](http://www.sru.edu/majors)

## ADMISSIONS OFFICE:

North Hall Welcome Center  
asktherock@sru.edu  
724.738.2015