

RECREATIONAL THERAPY

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATIONAL THERAPY
COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

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 leisure and recreation, such as sports, art, cooperative games, aquatics, music, and other activity-based interventions as treatment to help address symptoms, improve function, and increase overall quality of life 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

SRU Recreational Therapy students work with a variety of clinical populations, engage in experiential learning, and study evidence-based research. The curriculum prepares students for entry-level practice and offers opportunities to specialize through minors in animal-assisted intervention, adventure fitness, aquatics, gerontology, psychology, adapted physical activity, exceptionalities (special education), criminology, or nonprofit leadership. The program also provides a bridge to graduate study in Recreational Therapy and related fields.

WHY CHOOSE SRU RECREATIONAL THERAPY?

- 1. Coursework with integrated lab experiences:** Gain hands-on experience in and out of the classroom, including opportunities to work with clients in our RT clinical lab, designed to reflect a professional practice setting.
- 2. Experienced faculty:** Learn from nationally certified faculty with experience in physical medicine and rehabilitation, behavioral health, gerontology, camps, and community-based programs. Faculty also hold state and national professional leadership positions.
- 3. Projects and research with faculty:** Collaborate with faculty on undergraduate research, project development, and conference presentations.
- 4. Support and guidance:** Work with a dedicated faculty advisor who provides guidance on coursework, practical experiences, and career opportunities.
- 5. Accreditation:** SRU's program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs/Committee on Accreditation of Recreational Therapy Education and was among the first programs in the country to earn this accreditation.
- 6. Internships and Practicums.** Students will gain hands-on work readiness through a 120 hour internship and a 560 hour internship. The students have an opportunity to focus in a specialty area or population during these capstone experiences.



MAJOR

Recreational Therapy

MINORS

- Animal-Assisted Interventions
- Recreational Therapy

ACCELERATED PROGRAMS AND AFFILIATIONS

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

**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 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.*

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INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SRU Recreational Therapy students have completed internships at various locations including:

- National Institutes of Health (MD)
- Veterans Administration Medical Centers (various)
- Burke Rehabilitation Center (NY)
- Nationwide Children's Hospital (OH)
- ReMed Brain Injury Rehabilitation (PA)
- Cleveland Clinic (OH)
- Presbyterian Senior Care (PA)
- Ability 360 (AZ)
- Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (PA)
- Sarah Reed Children's Center (PA)

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
- Recreational therapist – VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
- Recreational therapist – Walter Reed Army Medical Center
- Rehabilitation therapist – University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital
- Community life director – County Meadows Retirement Community
- Outpatient brain injury specialist – ReMed
- Creative arts therapist – Ohio Valley Medical Center,
- Recreational therapist – Shepherd Center

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Active Minds
- Best Buddies
- Interprofessional Education Club
- Recreational Therapy Club
- Tikkun Olam Makers Club



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Gabrielle Cunningham – SRU class of 2020 Recreational Therapist, Verland Institute

"Becoming a RT 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."

Hannah Morgan – SRU class of 2020 Recreational Therapist, Meadows Psychiatric Center

"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 – SRU class of 2021 Occupational Therapy Doctoral Student, Slippery Rock University

"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."

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