

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 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, 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 program 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.

MAJOR

- Recreational Therapy (BS)*

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.*

SlipperyRock
University

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EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

www.sru.edu

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
- Intregrace, Maryland
- Menorah Park, Ohio
- Ability 360, Arizona
- Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, Pennsylvania
- Cook Children's Center, Florida

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, Burke Rehabilitation Hospital, White Plains, New York
- Recreational Therapist, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Life Enrichment Coordinator, Integrace, Eldersburg, Maryland
- Rehabilitation Therapist, University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio
- Activity Director, Orchard Manor, Grove City, Pennsylvania
- 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

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Shannon Russell, '15

Recreational Therapist at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center

"The amazing professors in the RT program at SRU empowered me to expand my knowledge through undergraduate research and exceptional hands on learning, which equipped me with the necessary skills and abilities to provide recreational therapy programs to 500 summer campers with physical and cognitive diagnoses. I wouldn't be where I am today in my career without the guidance and support of the SRU RT program."

Janelle Krantz, '13

Recreation therapist, Burke Rehabilitation Hospital White Plains, New York

"The SRU recreation therapy program provided me with the professional skills and knowledge necessary to be a successful RT in our interdisciplinary team within the physical rehabilitation hospital setting."

Chris Mosesso, '12

Recreational therapy manager, LIFE Beaver County Aliquippa, Pennsylvania

"I benefitted a lot personally and professionally in the SRU RT program. I appreciated the coursework and in-class exercise related to group facilitation. There was also an emphasis on practical experience in the field including a practicum following junior year and internship following senior year. My internship experience led directly to employment at my current company."

DEPARTMENT CONTACT:

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.sru.edu/majors

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