

# **Recreation Program Fieldwork Requirements**

All recreation majors are required to complete a minimum of 240 hours of recreation-related fieldwork prior to Phase III (internship). Fieldwork is defined as direct experience in organizing or leading recreation-related programs and can be a paid or unpaid experience. Students can get fieldwork credit for up to 100 hours of prior recreation-related experience as long as it was completed during the previous two years. All fieldwork hours must be approved by the student's advisor.

The purposes of fieldwork are:

1. To widen the student's career horizons
2. To provide the student with practical experience in recreation prior to the internship
3. To enable students to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations
4. To broaden the student's background. This purpose is intended to help students gain experience with a diversity of groups, including but not limited to age, class, gender, ethnicity, disability, and sexual orientation.

Advisors will assist students in locating fieldwork opportunities, but all arrangements are the responsibility of the student. Students should meet with their advisors regularly and at least once each quarter to discuss their fieldwork progress. Students should keep a record of their fieldwork hours. A simple log with the following information will do:

- Location
- Brief description of fieldwork
- Beginning & ending dates
- Total hours worked

Generally, fieldwork should consist of leadership and programming experience. Below are examples of typical fieldwork experiences:

- Camp counselor
- Recreation leader
- Outdoor instructor, such as ski instructor, rock wall instructor, or ropes course facilitator
- Tour guide
- Recreation assistant in an extended care facility
- Youth sports coach

It is not unusual that students perform fieldwork in a wide variety of programs and settings, depending on their professional interests and personal background. Again, the main purpose of fieldwork is to diversify the student's background while acquiring career related experience prior to the internship. Students should direct their questions regarding fieldwork to their advisors.