Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Community Resources and Development (Parks and Recreation Management)

The MS degree in community resources and development with a concentration in parks and recreation management is offered by the School of Community Resources and Development. This master's degree program is research-oriented. It is designed to prepare graduates for careers in governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations and private-sector businesses by teaching them to analyze and understand critical topics and issues pertinent to the fields of tourism, parks and recreation management, nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations, and sustainable communities.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** Watts College of Public Service & Community Solutions
- **Location:** Downtown Phoenix campus

Accelerated Degrees

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

- Parks and Recreation Management, BS
- Parks and Recreation Management (Therapeutic Recreation), BS

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students will be advised by their academic departments to apply.

Degree Requirements
30 credit hours and a thesis, or
36 credit hours including the required applied project course (CRD 593)

**Required Core (15 credit hours)**
CRD 500 Research Methods (3)
CRD 502 Statistical and Data Analysis (3)
CRD 530 Community Services Management (3) or advanced inquiry course (3)
CRD 552 Critical Issues (3)
CRD 555 Theoretical Perspectives in Community Development (3)

**Concentration (6 credit hours)**
CRD 569 Advanced Tourism and Recreation Studies (3)
TDM 570 Sustainable Tourism (3)

**Electives (3 or 9 credit hours)**

**Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)**
CRD 593 Applied Project (6) or
CRD 599 Thesis (6)

**Additional Curriculum Information**
Completion of the master's degree program in community resources and development requires two years of study, on the average. Students may select a thesis or applied project. Advising and direction in both options are under the direct supervision of an assigned faculty member.

The thesis option is a research-oriented program and is recommended for students planning to continue graduate studies beyond the master's degree. Students in the thesis option will take an advanced inquiry course, and they will take three credit hours of elective coursework. The thesis must be defended in an oral examination before a supervisory committee of at least three faculty members, one of whom will reside in another department.

The applied project option is intended for students seeking additional knowledge and expertise relevant to professional career development. Students in the applied project option take CRD 530 as part of their core coursework and will take nine credit hours of electives.

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.
Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of professional and academic goals
4. GRE scores
5. three letters of recommendation
6. current resume
7. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

Only complete application files are reviewed or considered for admission. Applicants without undergraduate academic work in related disciplines are required to take six credit hours of deficiency coursework in addition to the master's degree requirements. Deficiency coursework may be taken in conjunction with master's degree-level classes.

Applicants should see the program website for application deadlines.

**Contact Information**

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