Vision Statement

- The Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies strives to gain premier recognition status among students, employers, and regulators training excellence through a multidisciplinary approach.
- Enhance research and scholarship in the field of Recreation and Leisure studies.
- Provide consumers with competent therapeutic recreation specialists.
- Utilize community experiences for TR students with our partners and potential employers through opportunities for service learning, practicums, and internships.
- Establish the foundation for quality learning experiences in theoretical and practical applications.

Student Outcomes

In coordination with the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) and the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) the University of Southern Maine Recreation and Leisure Studies provides students with the professional skill set necessary whereas upon successful course completion the ability sit for national certification with the designation of Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS). NCTRC outlines the Professional Knowledge Domains that students must acquire during their college experience. Our course work is built on these domains. They include:

1. History of Recreation and Leisure Studies/Foundational Knowledge
2. Therapeutic Recreation Models of Service Delivery
3. Etiology, Course, and Prognosis of Various Diagnostic Categories and Disease Sequelae
4. Activity Analysis and Task Analysis
5. Concepts of Health and Wellness
6. Professional Relationships and Responsibilities
7. Client Assessment and Documentation
8. Creating, Implementing, and Evaluating Evidence Based Interventions/Programming
9. Role and Function of Treatment Teams and/or Service Providers
10. Leadership Skills
11. Awareness and Advocacy of Profession
12. Ethical and Legal Aspects of Therapeutic Recreation
13. Theory and Application of Treatment/Rehabilitation
14. Client-Centered Approach and Therapeutic Models
15. Creating Behavioral Goals and Objectives
16. Community Participation
17. Problem Solving Skills
18. Risk Management
19. Cultural and Diversity Competency

After reviewing the Domains of Knowledge, Student’s Learning Outcomes consist of:
Students will earn a grade of C- or better in each required course, with a GPA of 2.0 or better

Students will provide written examples of the historical and foundational background of Therapeutic Recreation

Students will demonstrate knowledge of models of Therapeutic Service Delivery Models

Students will compile and use a portfolio of valid and reliable Therapeutic Recreation Assessments

Students will accomplish two 24 hour practicum hours at an area agency that provides Therapeutic Recreation services

Students will accomplish a 560 hour internship at an agency that utilizes Therapeutic Recreation as a treatment modality

Students will demonstrate cultural competency

Students will practice and apply leadership skills

Students will differentiate between opinion and clinical opinion

Students will research an evidence based intervention

Students will present an evidence based intervention

Students will plan an inclusive program for all populations

Students will give examples of a task analysis and an activity analysis

Students will demonstrate proficiency in documentation; including assessing, writing the assessment note, progress notes, and discharge notes, proficiency includes medical terminology and abbreviations

Students will interpret and apply the code of ethics as stated by ATRA

Students will pass the NCTRC national certification exam at the end of their college career, earning the designation of CTRS