Outdoor Recreation at Georgia Southern University

Outdoor Recreation is one of three emphasis areas within the Recreation and Tourism Management Program. The outdoor recreation emphasis is an experientially-based program that involves students in a range of field-based learning environments.

- Students in RECR 3230 plan and lead multi-day adventure trips under instructor supervision. Activities include backpacking, canoeing, sea kayaking, and whitewater rafting. An emphasis is placed on using the adventure experience as a means of promoting personal and professional growth.

- Students in RECR 3235 participate in an overnight service learning trip for National Public Lands Day. Previous locations have included Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and Strom Thurmond Lake.

- Students in RECR 4230 conduct site visits to the Georgia Southern Museum, the Botanical Gardens, the Center for Wildlife Education and other locations to evaluate educational and interpretive programs. Students actively participate in program design and implementation and receive both Project Learning Tree and Project WILD Educator certifications upon course completion.

- Students have the opportunity to earn academic credit for courses offered through the National Outdoor Leadership School, Outward Bound, and related organizations.

- All students complete a minimum of 200 experience hours and a 12 credit hour internship in an approved organizational setting.

Careers in Outdoor Recreation

There are two general career paths that outdoor recreation students can pursue: Outdoor Recreation Management and Outdoor Program Administration.

**Outdoor Recreation Management:** public sector employment with federal, state, and local land management agencies.

Recent employment and internship locations for Georgia Southern alumni include:

- Army Corps of Engineers
- Bureau of Land Management
- Georgia DNR
- Local park and recreation departments
- National Park Service
- State park systems across the U.S.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
Outdoor Program Administration: provision of recreational, educational, developmental, and therapeutic adventure programs in the private, non-profit, and public sectors.

Recent employment and internship locations for Georgia Southern alumni include:

- Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center
- Campus recreation programs
- Camps, private schools, and residential facilities
- Commercial guide services and tourism providers
- Military Morale, Welfare, and Recreation programs
- National Outdoor Leadership School
- Outward Bound
- Second Nature Wilderness Programs
- Ski resorts
- Talisman Camps and Programs

Outdoor Recreation Coursework at Georgia Southern

The Outdoor Recreation emphasis is comprised of four required courses:

- RECR 3230 – Adventure Education
- RECR 3235 – Outdoor Recreation Management
- RECR 4230 – Environmental Education and Interpretation
- Upper Division RECR Elective – must be approved by an RTM advisor

Students interested in the Outdoor Recreation Management career path are required to minor or pursue 15 credits of upper division elective coursework in areas such as anthropology, biology, geographic information systems (GIS), geography, geology, history, justice studies, or the Interdisciplinary Concentration in Sustainability. Students are strongly encouraged to complete a minimum of 24 natural science course credits (includes Area D, RECR 3235 and RECR 4230).

Students interested in Outdoor Program Administration are required to minor or pursue 15 credits of upper division elective coursework in areas such as business, child and family development, geography, international studies, psychology, justice studies, sociology, or Spanish.

Note: Therapeutic Recreation and Tourism & Community Leisure Services students can complete the Outdoor Recreation emphasis by taking RECR 3230, 3235, and 4230. This typically requires 1-2 additional courses beyond those required for the primary emphasis area.

For more information about Outdoor Recreation at Georgia Southern University, please contact:

Dr. John Peden
Building 212 – Room 1007
jpeden@georgiasouthern.edu
912.478.5684.