

RECREATION AND PARKS LEADERSHIP STUDIES

Founded in 1968, the RPLS department is Minnesota's only nationally accredited undergraduate parks and recreation program. Students graduate with a degree that is highly respected throughout the region and across the nation.

PROGRAMS



DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

- Bachelor of Science in Recreation Leadership and Management
- Bachelor of Science in Cultural and Natural Resource Management

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The RPLS major offers career tracks in Recreation Leadership and Management and Cultural and Natural Resource Management. Through hands-on learning, experiences in the field and in-classroom learning, the RPLS program prepares students for fulfilling careers in this growing field.

REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS



SKILLS AND TALENTS

- Event Planning and Facilitation
- Conservation and Resource Management
- Recreation Leadership
- Tourism Management
- Experiential Learning
- Operations and Facility Management

CAREERS

- Program Manager
- Park Ranger
- Nonprofit Manager
- Naturalist
- Event/Planner Manager
- Convention & Visitor Bureau/Tourism Directors

EMPLOYERS

- City of Mankato
- MN DNR
- National Park Service
- YMCA
- Carver County
- USDA Forest Service

INSPIRED ACTION



EMPLOYMENT RATE

95.3%
of program graduates begin their careers within one year of graduation.

Graduates: 218
Respondents: 176
link.mnsu.edu/graduate-follow-up

MEDIAN SALARY

\$78,280

The median annual wage for Life, Physical, and Social Science occupations in May 2023.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Life, Physical, and Social Science occupations, at link.mnsu.edu/recreation-parks-leadership-studies-salary

PROGRAM WEBSITE



ahn.mnsu.edu/rpls

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN - RECREATION LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT, BS

First Year (Fall)	First Year (Spring)
RPLS 100 Introduction to Recreation and Parks Leadership Studies (3) General Education Course (3) General Education Course (3) General Education Course (3) General Education Course (3)	RPLS 175 Natural Resources and Conservation in RPLS (3) General Education Course (3) General Education Course (3) General Education Course (3) General Education Course (3)
Second Year (Fall)	Second Year (Spring)
RPLS 276 Recreation Leadership (3) RPLS 293 Leisure, Recreation, Play, and Well-Being (3) General Education Course (3) General Education Course (3) General Education Course (3)	RPLS 376 Program Planning in RPLS (3) RPLS 393W Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in RPLS (3) General Education Course (3) General Elective Course (3) Elective Course in Major (3)
Third Year (Fall)	Third Year (Spring)
RPLS 373 Operations and Facility Management in RPLS (3) General Elective Course (4) General Elective Course (3) Elective Course in Major (3) Elective Course in Major (3)	General Elective Course (4) General Elective Course (3) Elective Course in Major (3) Elective Course in Major (3) Elective Course in Major (3)
Fourth Year (Fall)	Fourth Year (Spring)
RPLS 483 Personnel Leadership in RPLS (3) RPLS 493 History and Philosophy in RPLS (3) General Elective Course (4) General Elective Course (3) Elective Course in Major (3)	RPLS 495 Senior Internship (9)

For more information about program requirements, visit:
mnsu.edu/academics/academic-catalog

LEARN MORE

Recreation and Parks Leadership Studies

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