**Therapeutic Recreation Program**

**Policy for Pre-Internship Experience Hours**

Updated 4. 2021

**300+ Total Hours Requirement**

* Students must complete a minimum of 300+ hours of volunteer or paid experience prior to pre-internship
* deadlines (see [TR Internship Manual](https://uiowa.instructure.com/courses/174786/files/15592035?wrap=1))
  + 150 hours MAX accepted prior to admission to program (must be completed after high school graduation)
  + It is highly recommended that students attempt to gain experience beyond the minimum requirement
* Students are required to receive pre-approval of potential experiences (or approval of previous hours upon admission) from Internship Coordinator using the Pre-Approval tool, found on the TR Majors ICON site
* Students will follow up with submission of documentation to TR Majors ICON site using the Pre-Internship Experience Verification Form, which includes supervisor signature and approval of hours, following completion of experience and prior to pre-internship deadlines
* Students will also be required to meet TR Setting minimum requirements, as described below:
  + **TRS Guided Experience Requirement – minimum of 25 hours**
    - Students are required to volunteer/shadow with a TR Specialist – any professional with a degree in therapeutic recreation.
  1. **Clinical Hours Requirement – minimum of 50 hours**
     + Clinical settings include hospitals, psychiatric or skilled nursing facilities, substance abuse programs, and rehabilitation centers.  In these settings, recreational therapists treat and rehabilitate individuals with specific medical, social, and behavioral problems, usually in cooperation with physicians; nurses; psychologists; social workers; and speech, physical, and occupational therapists.  (Adapted from CAAHEP, 2021)
  2. **Community Requirement – minimum of 50 hours**
     + In community settings, therapeutic recreation specialists work in adult care, outpatient programming, adaptive sports and recreation programs, home health, private consulting, developmental disabilities services, supported community living, and other health and human services. Therapeutic recreation specialists working in parks and recreation services facilitate the inclusive recreation services for underserved population groups.  (Adapted from CAAHEP, 2021)
* **Additional hours** in recreation leadership, inclusive recreation, and disability are encouraged and may be approved toward completion of remaining hours, in addition to the aforementioned minimum requirement areas.
  1. Students may use involvement in student organizations, Dance Marathon, course electives, practicum experiences, etc. to contribute to these 300+ hours requirement
  2. Students will still be required to submit for pre-approval and verification documentation
  3. Maximum allowance of hours may apply to particular experiences and students will be informed of max allotments upon approval. Currently assigned maximum allowances apply to the following experience
* Camp Adventure (50 hours max)
* South Africa Trip (50 hours max)
* Winter Games Field Trip (50 hours max)
* Give Kids the World (30 hours max)
* Camp Have-a-Lot-of-Funna (15 hours max)
* OT/PT/CCLS Shadowing Experience (20 hours max)
* SDS Accommodation Assistance (20 hours max)