

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism
PRLS 241 POR/TR Practicum (3:3:0)
Fall & Spring Semesters

DAY/TIME: Fridays 9 – 3 and/or other hours necessary and approved by site supervisor to satisfy 120 hour practicum requirement.

LOCATION: Hemlock Overlook, Freedom Center, Aquatics & Fitness Center, or approved GMU affiliated site

PROFESSOR: James C. Kozlowski, J.D., Ph.D.

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OFFICE LOCATION: Room 201G Bull Run Hall, Prince William campus

PHONE NUMBER: 703-993-2027 (cell 703-455-8474)

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

PREREQUISITES: Sophomore status or higher in Parks and Outdoor Recreation (POR) or Therapeutic Recreation (TR) concentration or POR/TR minor

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Directed practicum experience at Hemlock Overlook Center for Outdoor Education, the Freedom Aquatic and Fitness Center, GMU Fitness and Aquatic Center or other approved site under supervision of a GMU adjunct faculty on site supervisor and POR faculty advisor. Opportunities provide for student to develop knowledge, values, and beginning practice skills appropriate for entry-level practice in Parks and Outdoor Recreation or Therapeutic Recreation agencies. Students are expected to work 120 hours within a period of 10 to 14 weeks.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the completion of this course students should have:

1. Experienced various aspects of facility operation (staff, organizational structure, funding base, clientele, budget, etc.).
3. Gain administrative, leadership and/or programming experience in the provision of parks and outdoor recreation/ therapeutic recreation services.
4. Gain experience in the development, maintenance and/or management of parks and outdoor recreation/ therapeutic recreation services.
5. Develop new understanding of internship and career prospects in the field of parks and outdoor recreation/ therapeutic recreation.

NRPA Accreditation Standards: Professional Competencies - Field Experiences

8.41* — Field experience prior to internship.

REQUIREMENTS:

Under the direction of an on-site supervisor, 120 hours of field experience which satisfies the course objectives of the practicum and meets the needs of the facility. In the PRLS 241 Practicum, the focus is on providing each student with hands-on practical experience in programming and facility management.

For PRLS majors and minors, the PRLS 241 practicum is generally limited to one of three possible GMU affiliated sites: Hemlock Overlook with Susan Johnson sjohnsoi@gmu.edu as the on-site supervisor, the Freedom Center with Leslie Shinner lshinner@gmu.edu as on-site supervisor, or the Fitness and Aquatics Center with Mickey McDade cmcdade@gmu.edu as on-site supervisor. All three on-site supervisors for the PRLS 241 Practicum are also adjunct faculty in the PRLS program.

Depending on the student's background and interests, as well as the needs of a particular facility, the on-site supervisor will work with the student to produce an individualized practicum which can include a variety of work-related experiences.

Evaluation & Exit Interview

At the conclusion of the practicum, the on-site supervisor will attest to the satisfactory completion of the 120 hours of required field experience. The student will receive a grade of “Credit” for satisfactory completion of the 120 hours of required field experience. A grade of “No Credit” will be entered if the student fails to complete, quantitatively and/or qualitatively, the 120 hours of required field experience in a manner considered satisfactory by the on-site supervisor.

Depending upon the individual administrative procedures of the practicum site for existing personnel, the on-site supervisor will develop a procedure to track the hours logged by the individual student to meet the 120 hour practicum requirement. In addition, depending upon the existing evaluation and personnel procedures of the practicum site for existing personnel, the on-site supervisor, to the extent practicable, will develop a procedure to provide ongoing feedback and evaluation to the individual practicum student, as well as an exit interview/evaluation at the completion of the practicum experience. To the extent such evaluation materials are produced, at the discretion of the on-site supervisor, they will be made available to the student and faculty advisor for PRLS 241.

Grading Scale

Credit: all required hours, and above described course requirements must be completed in a satisfactory fashion.

No Credit

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A FUNCTIONAL AND ACCESSIBLE GMU E MAIL ADDRESS FOR MY E MAIL CLASS LIST. THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER, I WILL BE RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES VIA E MAIL. All students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code.

Students with Disabilities: Students having documentation on file with the Disability Support Services Office should bring this to the attention of the professor.