

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

PRLS 241– PRLS Practicum (3)  
Summer 2015

DAY/TIME:	TBD by site	LOCATION:	Approved Mason affiliated site
INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Brenda Wiggins	E-MAIL:	bwiggins@gmu.edu
		PHONE:	703.993.2068
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment	FAX:	703.993.2025

PREREQUISITES: 60 hours and PRLS 210.

**Notes:** Open to departmental majors and minors only. Serves as a capstone for minors who have completed PRLS 310, 316, and 327.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: Paid or voluntary work experience in a park and recreation agency. Minimum period of 10 to 12 weeks of part-time employment (10 hours minimum) or experience. Capstone course for minors, allowing for integration and application of course work, theories, and research to a work setting. Work sites chosen among approved sites. Includes meetings and assignments prior to and during the practicum.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the completion of the course, students should be able to:

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.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION STANDARDS:

Further, upon completion of this course, students will meet the following professional accreditation standards:

*Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Related Professions (COAPRT) standards met*

7.04: Students graduating from the program shall demonstrate, through a comprehensive internship of not less than 400 clock hours (560 for TR) and no fewer than 12 weeks (PRLS 490), the potential to succeed as professionals at supervisory or higher levels in park, recreation,

tourism, or related organizations.

#### NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY:

Pre-internship fieldwork experience at an approved site.

#### EVALUATION:

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 and submission of a matrix of weekly tasks completed. 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 see the tracked 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 instructor of record for PRLS 241.

#### REQUIREMENTS:

First, prior to being able to beginning the Practicum, the student will submit Practicum Forms #1-4 to Dr. Wiggins for approval in the Dean’s Office.

Then, under the direction of an on-site supervisor, the student will complete 120 hours of field experience and satisfy the course objectives of the practicum, meeting 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.

On a weekly basis:

- 1). By Sunday nights no later than 11:59p.m. please submit to Dr. Wiggins the number of hours worked for the past week, along with
- 2). The kinds of tasks you performed which may end up being in categories, limit of 3-5 tasks, and
- 3). What you plan to do for the next week on site.

## GRADING SCALE

S (satisfactory) completion of all required hours, and above described course requirements in a satisfactory fashion as confirmed by the GMU affiliated on-site supervisor.

NC (no credit) failure to compile all required hours, and above described course requirements in a satisfactory fashion as confirmed by the GMU affiliated on-site supervisor.

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Based on the individual 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 schedule, which can include a variety of work-related experiences.

### *Student Expectations*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

### *Campus Resources*

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism, please visit our website [See <http://rht.gmu.edu/>].
- **CORE VALUES COMMITMENT:** The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles.

**PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR:** Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

