National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC)

Students who graduate from the University of Waterloo with a Therapeutic Recreation degree, the correct electives, and an internship (supervised by a CTRS) qualify to sit the exam and apply for NCTRC certification under the Professional Academic path. The Academic path is 1 of 3 paths to certification. You must register for REC 450. Please check NCTRC’s website for the most current requirements.

NB: 3 semester units = 0.5 credit course

Coursework: A minimum of 18 semester or 24 quarter (0.25) credit hours (6 courses) of TR and general recreation content coursework with no less than a minimum of 15 semester/20 quarter credit hours (5 courses) in TR content. A minimum of 5 courses in TR is required and each course must be a minimum of 3 credit hours and a minimum of a half credit (0.5). The Honours BA in Therapeutic Recreation more than covers the minimum requirement for coursework.

Supportive courses: A total of 18 semester units (6 UW 0.5 credit courses) in the professional academic path are required, including:

1. anatomy and physiology – AHS 150 (online) or an equivalent course at another university including online courses (must be equal amounts of anatomy and physiology)
2. abnormal psychology – PSYCH 257/PSYCH 323R
3. human growth and development across the lifespan – ISS 150R or HLTH 220
4. minimum of 5 courses in TR – REC 251, REC 252, REC 350, REC 354, REC 455
5. 3 human service courses (see below)

The remaining semester hours of coursework must be fulfilled in the content of human series as defined by NCTRC. Human services are defined to include courses supportive to the practice of TR such as: adaptive physical education, human biological/physical sciences, psychology, sociology, special education, education, ethics, health related issues, communication, human behaviours and problems, allied health, and other disciplines of study supportive to the practice of therapeutic recreation as defined by the current NCTRC Job Analysis Knowledge Areas (p. 14 NCTRC, Information for New Applicants).

Internship: Students should begin planning at least 8 months prior to the start date. The internship must be completed during the senior year of the academic program with a prerequisite of REC 350 and level at least 3A Therapeutic Recreation (following the completion of third year, or as a post-degree student). The internship must be completed under the supervision of a NCTRC certified practitioner (CTRS credential). REC 450 course outline: http://www.ahs.uwaterloo.ca/rec/undergraduate/450.html. The full-time, on-site agency supervisor must be currently NCTRC certified and possess the CTRS credential for one year prior to supervising an internship student.

Academic Path: The Academic path eligibility requirements to take the CTRS exam are a baccalaureate degree or higher from an accredited college or university with a major in therapeutic recreation or a major in recreation or leisure with an option in therapeutic recreation. An official transcript must be submitted with application and verify the degree, major and coursework. You will need your TR degree and the following:

A minimum 560-hour, fourteen (14) consecutive week internship in therapeutic recreation services that uses the therapeutic recreation process as defined by the current NCTRC Job Analysis Study under the supervision of an on-site field placement supervisor who is NCTRC CTRS certified. As per NCTRC, you must complete at least 20 hours per week and no more than 45 hours per week. The CTRS Supervisor must be employed full-time and work a minimum of 32 hours a week with at least 50% of the job duties in TR services. An acceptable field placement experience is one which is completed after the majority of required therapeutic recreation and general recreation coursework is completed as verified on the official transcript and the completed fieldwork verification form. REC 450’s requirements meet NCTRC’s current and future requirements. Process: Students will be given permission to enrol in REC 450 after confirmation of the internship supervisor has been received.

Cost: $400 (US) for professional eligibility application review ($100) and exam registration fee ($300).

For a copy of the guidelines or questions, contact:

http://www.nctrc.org/
Email: nctrc@nctrc.org

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