The Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism in the College of Applied Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign offers an online Master of Science degree in Recreation, Sport and Tourism. This degree provides you a quality and highly accessible education, ensuring that you are prepared to meet the changing requirements of the leisure services industry.

The Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism is dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities through research that has an impact, educational programs that address both theory and practice, and outreach activities that make a difference.

Admission Requirements

Bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution
- A major in parks, recreation, sport, tourism, or a related field will be given preference
- GPA, last two years of undergraduate studies with a minimum of 3.0* out of 4.0

TOEFL/IELTS - For international students’ language ability, a TOEFL score or IELTS test is required.

A current resume reflecting academic and professional experience**

Three letters of reference that specifically address the applicant’s ability to be successful in an online graduate program in recreation, sport and tourism

Personal Statement: Such statement is reviewed closely to identify one’s interests and professional experience** related to parks, recreation, sport or tourism. Listed below are specific questions for applicants to address, but not limit themselves to, within their personal statement. These questions could be addressed in one whole essay, or as itemized responses to the questions:

1. What are your goals for graduate study and a professional career? If appropriate, describe your professional experience as it relates to parks, recreation, sport, or tourism.
2. Why do you feel the University of Illinois is appropriate for you? Why do you think the online program offered by the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism is a good match for your interests?
3. Why are you pursuing an online graduate degree? In what ways would your degree contribute to your future and/or career?

* Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis. In reviewing the applicant’s entire packet, there may be convincing reasons to admit the applicant (e.g., professional experience) even though the required GPA or TOEFL (for international applicants) is below the minimum.

** Professional experience in the field, although not necessary, would improve an applicant’s admission packet. Such experience should be highlighted in the applicant’s resume and the applicant’s “personal statement.”
Students in the master's degree program have three option areas from which to choose:

- Park and Recreation Management
- Sport Management
- Tourism Management

The M.S. in Recreation, Sport and Tourism online consists of nine courses in 8-week segments starting every two months and can be completed in 18 months. Designed and taught by expert faculty and instructors, students are engaged in collaborative projects, culminating in a professional paper.

Required Courses:

- RST 501 – Concepts and Applications in RST – 4 hours

Management Core - 16 Hours

- RST 512 – Managing RST Organizations
- RST 515 – Marketing in RST
- RST 516 – Finance and Budgeting in RST
- RST 594SM – Strategic Management

Option Area Coursework (Select 1) – 4 Hours

- RST 502 – Critical Issues in Recreation
- RST 520 – Critical Issues in Sport
- RST 530 – Critical Issues in Tourism

Coursework to support option area – 12 Hours

Coursework to support option area should be selected in consultation with your advisor.