

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

D. HENRY WATTS SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

The Department of Sport and Recreation Professions offers two majors—sport and recreation management and recreational therapy. Both focus on improving lives through the provision and management of meaningful leisure-time programs. Professionals work in a variety of settings such as sport facilities, public parks and recreation, and travel and tourism. They may also work with sport teams, hospitals, non-profit organizations like the YMCA, commercial agencies such as theme parks and fitness centers, and long-term care facilities. The principles of human motivation and satisfaction, current trends, and a philosophy of practice combine to provide programs and services that improve lives.

THE PROGRAM

The program provides both classroom and practical learning experiences in the study of sport, recreation, and leisure. Nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Park, Recreation, Tourism, and Related Professions, the department supports students studying sport and recreation management and recreational therapy.

Classroom work is reinforced through “real-world” experiences that allow students to hone their career preferences. The program is nationally recognized for its assessment, work with alumni and professionals, and for ensuring that all graduates are eligible to sit for the examination to become a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP).

THE MAJOR

The sport and recreation management major requires a foundational five-course “core.” Eight additional specialization courses are also required. All students are required to complete a final semester capstone internship. This semester-long internship allows the student to gain experience and apply their coursework with an agency locally, nationally, or worldwide.

THE COURSES

VWU classes are small and interactive. Sport and recreation management majors complete courses in Leadership and Management, Sport and Recreation Program and Event Planning, and Sport and Facility Management. Students are also able to choose from individual career interests such as Commercial Sport and Recreation, Campus Recreation Administration, Outdoor Recreation, and Ropes Course Management.

INTERNSHIPS

Working with a faculty advisor to select an internship that mirrors their interests, all students complete a final-semester internship with an employer of their choice. This experience gives the student a competitive edge as they transition from college to the workplace or graduate studies. Students also have an opportunity to complete a Junior Internship — another practical experience to enhance their skills and resumé.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Graduates secure employment in traditional sport and recreation agencies such as the YMCA, state park and recreation departments, campus recreation, intercollegiate athletics, and professional sports. They have also been employed in administration, teaching, sales, health care, consulting, law enforcement and more. Some students enter graduate school to study fields as diverse as education or business.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jill R. Sturts, Ph.D.

*Chair of the Department of Sport and Recreation Professions
Associate Professor of Sport and Recreation Professions
jsturts@vwu.edu*

