PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

University of North Carolina at Wilmington  Wilmington, NC  28403

Type of program change proposed (check all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Establishment, dissolution, division, or consolidation of academic departments or other degree-granting entities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Establishment, dissolution, or revision of academic degrees, including majors, minors, and certificate programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policies for maximum and minimum hours required for majors, minors, and certificates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of hours required for graduation</td>
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<td>University-wide competency requirements (other than basic studies, oral communication intensive, or computer competency)</td>
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<td>Course prefixes</td>
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<td>Curricular conflicts between schools and/or colleges</td>
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<td>Other general curricular policies which have total university impact</td>
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Description of proposed program change:

See attached Justification Statement.

Signature of Department Chairperson: Alexia Franzidis
Signature of Dean: Chris Lantz
Action of the University Curriculum Committee: Approved
Signature of the UCC Chairperson: 
UCC Approved: 4/01

Approved by Paul Townend ON 11/27/18
Justification for request to change degree:

The following changes to the RT major are being requested (note: most of these do not actually change the degree requirements, but are significant updates to the catalog that need to be made that reflect current practices):

1. Wording changes in description of the major to reflect current terminology and nature of major;
2. Deletion of the four concentrations--only one student has completed a concentration since they were initiated four years ago, and since Thematic Clusters are no longer required, concentrations aren't necessary;
3. Under Program Admission--minimum number of 50 hours of working or volunteering experience (from 25)--the vast majority of the applicants admitted into the program have at least 50 hours; and
4. Adding RTH 388, 393 394 to the list of treatment modality courses that can be taken to fulfill that requirement—students must still take three of the courses listed—now they have seven to choose from instead of four.
Recreation Therapy, B.A.

Dr. Ashton-Forrester, program coordinator. Dr. Gray, Dr. Johnson, Ms. Miller, Dr. Sardina

Graduates in recreation therapy (RT) are trained to utilize recreation activities and other active treatment modalities to increase the functional abilities and quality of life of people of all ages with disabilities and illnesses, such as cognitive impairments; intellectual and developmental disabilities; behavioral health issues including substance abuse, physical disabilities and illnesses; and dementia and other illnesses relate to aging. RT compliments other allied health professions and therapies to address clients' adjustment to illness/disability and educate them for new lifestyles. In addition, graduates in RT can pursue graduate degrees in physical, occupational and speech therapy other allied health and human service professions.

The purpose of the baccalaureate program in recreation therapy is to prepare graduates who possess the knowledge, skills and competencies to practice recreation therapy in health-care and community-based settings, and be leaders in the field of RT and health-care. This preparation places a priority on the development of skills through in- and out-of-class applied learning experiences, practica, internships, and community engagement. Furthermore, student outcomes emphasize critical thinking and evidence-based practice as means of assisting clients and organizations in reaching their goals, and maximizing the quality of life of individuals served.

Students in the recreation therapy major may select one of four areas of concentration: (a) physical rehabilitation, (b) behavioral health, (c) geriatrics, including a minor in gerontology, and (d) pediatrics, which helps them prepare to work as child life specialists.

In order to be eligible to practice RT, graduates must be credentialed as Licensed Recreational Therapists (LRT) by the North Carolina Board of Recreational Therapy Licensure and Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists (CTRS) by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC). Licensure and certification are obtained by completing a bachelor's degree in RT and receiving a satisfactory score on the NCTRC national certification exam.

Program Admission

All students wishing to major in Recreation Therapy must meet the minimum criteria for admission and follow the Recreation Therapy application procedure which includes timely submission of the Recreation Therapy application packet.

Minimum criteria for acceptance into the program includes:

a) 2.5 cumulative GPA at UNCW or transfer institution; and a minimum of 26 50 hours experience working or volunteering with individuals with disabilities, disabling conditions or illnesses.

Admission Procedure
Completed application packet must be submitted to chhs@uncw.edu

Application packet must include:

- Completed application form
- Two-page essay
- Signed Recreation Therapy Technical Standards, and
- Current degree audit or transcript if student is a transfer student
- Documentation of volunteer/work experience with individuals with disabilities, disabiling conditions, or illnesses.

The admission procedure also requires an interview with a Recreation Therapy faculty member.

**Priority Application Deadlines**

- For Fall admission, Feb. 15th
- For Spring admission, Sept. 15th

**Oral Communication Requirement:**

To satisfy the oral communication requirement for the B.A. degree in Recreation Therapy a student must successfully complete **RTH 480**.

**Applied Learning Requirement:**

To satisfy the applied learning requirement for the B.A. degree in Recreation Therapy a student must successfully complete **RTH 348** and **RTH 497**.

**Requirements for the B.A. Degree with a Major in Recreation Therapy:**

Complete one of the following sequences:

- [EXS 216 - Human Anatomy and Physiology I](#)
- [EXSL 216 - Human Anatomy and Physiology I Laboratory](#)
- [EXS 217 - Human Anatomy and Physiology II](#)
- [EXSL 217 - Human Anatomy and Physiology II Laboratory](#)

OR

- [BIO 240 - Human Anatomy and Physiology I](#)
- [BIOL 240 - Human Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory I](#)
- [BIO 241 - Human Anatomy and Physiology II](#)
• **BIOL 241 - Human Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory II**

• All students are required to complete:

  • **PSY 223 - Life Span Human Development**
  • **PSY 247 - Abnormal Psychology**

  • **PED 350 - Motor Behavior**
  or
  • **ATR 220 - Functional and Structural Kinesiology**

  • **ATR 470 - Medical Terminology for Health Professions**

• **RTH 265 - Introduction to Recreation Therapy**
• **RTH 348 - Practicum in Recreation Therapy**
• **RTH 368 - Foundations of Recreation Therapy**
• **RTH 370 - Recreation Therapy in Physical Rehabilitation**
• **RTH 372 - Recreation Therapy in Behavioral Health**
• **RTH 375 - Recreation Therapy Processes and Techniques**
• **RTH 380 - Assessment and Outcome Planning in Recreation Therapy**
• **RTH 381 - Recreation Therapy TX Modalities I**
• **RTH 390 - Pre-Internship Seminar in Recreation Therapy**
• **RTH 391 - Recreation Therapy Internship Finalization**
• **RTH 459 - Research & Evaluation Methods in Recreation Therapy**
• **RTH 475 - Leadership and Management in Recreation Therapy**
• **RTH 480 - Senior Seminar in Recreation Therapy**
• **RTH 497 - Clinical Placement in Recreation Therapy**

• In addition, all students are required to complete at least three of the following treatment modality or intervention courses:

  • **RTH 385 - Recreation Therapy TX Modalities II: Exercise & Movement**
  • **RTH 386 - Recreation Therapy TX Modalities III: Expressive Arts**
  • **RTH 387 - Recreation Therapy TX Modalities IV: Stress and Pain Management**
  • **RTH 388 - Adapted Sports**
- **RTH 389 - Recreation Therapy TX Modalities V: Cognitive Retraining**
- **RTH 393 – Functional Fitness in Recreation Therapy**
- **RTH 394 - Aquatics in Recreation Therapy**

**Total: 73**

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**Optional Concentration (9 hours)**

In addition to the total hours in the major, students may complete 9 credit hours in a specialization, in addition to the recreation therapy internship (RTH 497) in the area of specialization: a) behavioral health, b) geriatrics, c) pediatrics, or d) physical rehabilitation. Concentrations are described below.

**Behavioral Health Concentration**

To complete a recreation therapy concentration in behavioral health, students must complete all the required courses for the recreation therapy major, RTH 497 (12 credit hours) in an approved behavioral health setting, and 9 credit hours selected from the following courses:

- **PSY 217 – Learning and Behavior Change**
- **PSY 220 – Child Psychology**
- **PSY 221 – Adolescent Psychology**
- **PSY 245 – Drugs and Behavior**
- **PSY 256 – Brain and Behavior**
- **PSY 275 – Forensic Psychology**
- **PSY 324 – Psychology of Aging**
- **SED 362 – Teaching Students with Social, Emotional, and Behavior Problems**
- **SOC 335 – The Sociology of Deviant Behavior**
- **SOC 376 – Juvenile Delinquency or, other courses related to behavioral health and approved by an advisor.**

**Geriatric Concentration**

To complete a recreation therapy concentration in geriatrics, students must complete all the required courses for the recreation therapy major, RTH 497 (12 credit hours) in an approved geriatric setting; GRN 101; and 6 additional hours selected from the following courses:

- **GRN 440 – Current Issues in Gerontology**
- **HEA 325 – Health and Aging**
- **PSY 324 – Psychology of Aging**
- **PSY 449 – Psychology of Death and Dying**
- **SOC 220 – Sociology of Death and Dying**
SOC 336 – Sociology of Aging or, other courses related to gerontology/geriatrics and approved by an advisor.

### Pediatric Concentration

To complete a recreation therapy concentration in pediatrics, students must complete all the required courses for the recreation therapy major, RTH 497 (12 credit hours) in an approved pediatric setting, RTH 384, ATR 470, and 3 additional hours selected from the following courses:

- PED 345 – Childhood Obesity
- PSY 220 – Child Psychology
- PSY 221 – Adolescent Psychology
- PSY 320 – Psychology of Infancy and Early Childhood
- SOC 220 – Sociology of Death and Dying
- SWK 311 – Child Abuse and Neglect or, other courses related to pediatrics and approved by an advisor.

### Physical Rehabilitation Concentration

To complete a recreation therapy concentration in physical rehabilitation, students must complete all the required courses for the recreation therapy major, RTH 497 (12 credit hours) in an approved physical rehabilitation setting, ATR 470, and 6 additional hours selected from the following courses:

- EXS 321 – Biomechanics
- RTH 362 – Special Issues in Recreation Therapy (e.g., Aquatic Therapy)
- RTH 388 – Adaptive Sports or, other courses related to physical rehabilitation and approved by an advisor.

### Total with concentration: 82 hours

Student progression in the program is contingent upon the following:

1. Students must maintain at least a 2.50 RT major GPA, and a 3.0 cumulative GPA in all RTH required core courses.
2. Students found to have been in violation of the university’s Academic Honor Code will be subject to disciplinary action as set forth in the current Code of Student Life.
3. Students found to be in violation of the Recreation Therapy Technical Standards will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the program.
4. Students found to be in violation of the American Therapeutic Recreation Association’s Code of Ethics will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the program.
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