

RECREATION, PARK, AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT

- 1 The master's thesis and oral defense may be used for the qualifying examination for continuing students.

Degree Requirements

Master of Science (M.S.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

The master's program is designed for students who wish to continue their studies at the doctoral level at Penn State.

The M.S. program requires a minimum of 30 graduate credits and a 3.00 (B) grade-point average for graduation. The master's degree must be completed within eight years from matriculation as a degree student.

Prerequisites for graduate students who do not have an undergraduate degree in RPTM typically range from 3 to 9 credits, depending on the student's background and experience. Prerequisites for incoming graduate students with undergraduate majors in RPTM range from 0 to 6 credits. Incoming graduate students with undergraduate degrees in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management from Penn State are assumed to have met all prerequisite requirements. The graduate program director determines prerequisites for all incoming students.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

A master's degree is required to apply to the Ph.D. program.

The doctoral program builds on the master's program to achieve depth in scholarship and research. Students who have not completed a data-based thesis as part of their master's degree will be required to do so during the first three semesters as a doctoral student. The general requirements of the degree, sequentially, are:

1. course work,
2. qualifying examination by the third semester,¹
3. comprehensive examination (written and oral),
4. dissertation proposal presentation, and
5. final defense of dissertation.

Between the qualifying examination and completion of the degree program, a Ph.D. student must have attended Penn State in residence a minimum of two semesters over a twelve-month period. (This may include the semester in which the qualifying exam is taken.) Students have a limit of eight years after the qualifying exam to complete the doctoral program. A 3.00 (B) average is required for graduation.

Prerequisites for graduate students who do not have an undergraduate degree in RPTM typically range from 3 to 9 credits, depending on the student's background and experience. Prerequisites for incoming graduate students with undergraduate majors in RPTM range from 0 to 6 credits. Incoming graduate students with undergraduate degrees in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management from Penn State are assumed to have met all prerequisite requirements. The graduate program director determines prerequisites for all incoming students.