

**Guidelines for Required (50) Hours of  
Pre-Admission Experience for the  
Therapeutic Recreation Program**



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**The Requirement:**

**Prior to admission** to the Therapeutic Recreation program, UWL students must complete a minimum of fifty (50) hours of pre-professional experience. The hours must be done at the same agency.

**Rationale:**

Practical, experiential learning is an excellent way of selecting a career path. It is important that students interested in therapeutic recreation have experience in two areas related to their future career to ensure interest and compatibility related to this career option.

1. Persons with disabilities, chronic health conditions, and/or vulnerable populations
2. Organized recreation programs for the above populations

**Guidelines:**

1. Complete a minimum of 50 hours of pre-professional experience, **prior to the admission deadline**, as part of the pre-admission policy.
2. Ideally, it is helpful to work with a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS), although this is not a requirement.
3. The organized program must service various persons with disabilities, chronic health conditions, and/or vulnerable or marginalized populations in a recreation context.
4. The pre-professional experience must take place after the student has completed high school.

**Acceptable Examples:**

- Volunteer in a hospital rehabilitation program with a recreational therapist during the winter or summer breaks
- Work for Special Olympics or a Community Inclusion program over the summer
- Volunteer or work at an Easter Seals camp or a camp serving people with disabilities or chronic health conditions
- Volunteer in a Recreation, Recreation Therapy, Therapeutic Recreation, Life Enrichment or an Activities program at a Nursing Home, Assisted Living, or Independent Living facility
- Volunteer at the Teen Center working with the LGBT youth
- Work part-time as a Recreation Assistant at an agency serving children with Autism

**Unacceptable Examples:**

- Working as a CNA or a PCA
- Working in the dietary department of a hospital
- Babysitting or working in a day care
- NO Occupational, Physical, Speech Therapy observations, shadowing, or volunteer experiences will be accepted.

5. Select an experience that interests you, assists you in feeling comfortable, and enhances your professional goals.
6. A variety of therapeutic activity experiences are desired (e.g., art, drama, music, physical activity, aquatics, coping skills, relaxation/stress management, community integration, creative expression, etc.)
7. When possible and with permission take on responsibility of planning, implementing, and evaluating programs.
8. Whenever possible converse with participants and assist with programs.
9. Have your supervisor complete the pre-professional Evaluation form and send to:

Therapeutic Recreation Program – UWL  
1725 State Street  
2036 Health Science Center  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
OR  
Fax: 608-785-8206  
Janet Craig, Program Assistant  
jcraig@uwlax.edu

**UWL Therapeutic Recreation  
Pre-Admission Experience (50 Hours) - Evaluation Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

The UWL Therapeutic Recreation (TR) program currently requires students who wish admission to the Therapeutic Recreation program complete 50 hours of a pre-admission experience **prior to applying for the program.**

As a practicing professional, we ask for your input on this student who has completed a **minimum of 50 hours** of pre-professional work or volunteer experiences under your guidance. This evaluation is to be completed only after the evaluator has knowledge enough to evaluate this individual. This information will be used by the therapeutic recreation faculty as part of the selection process for admission into the therapeutic recreation program at UWL.

Key: 5 = exceptional 4 = high 3 = average 2 = needs improvement 1 = not acceptable  
N/O = not observed Circle appropriate number

<b>Skills, Characteristics, Traits</b>	<b>Exceptional</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Needs Improvement</b>	<b>Not Acceptable</b>	<b>Not Observed</b>
<b>Interpersonal Skills</b>						
Social maturity	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Ability to work with others	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Empathy	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Patience	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Listening skills	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Conversation skills	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Tact	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
<b>Leadership Characteristics</b>						
Leadership potential	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Organizational ability	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Problem solving ability	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Good judgement	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Assertiveness	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Accepts constructive criticism	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Enthusiasm	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Flexible/willing to adapt	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
<b>Character Traits</b>						
Honesty/integrity/ethical	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Dependable	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Accepts responsibility	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Self-confidence/poise	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Courtesy	5	4	3	2	1	N/O
Common sense	5	4	3	2	1	N/O

**The supervisor MUST complete the below material for this application to be considered.**

1. Additional comments regarding activities/recreation/leisure involvement at your agency:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Additional comments concerning this student's behavior or performance at your agency:

**The supervisor MUST initial the following statements for this application to be considered.**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ This volunteer experience was completed with persons with disabilities, chronic health conditions and/or vulnerable populations.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ This experience was completed in a recreation/activity/leisure context.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ The applicant completed the entire 50-hours of their volunteer experience at this agency.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Credentials: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

# Years employed as a professional: \_\_\_\_\_ # years at the agency \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to supervise and evaluate this student. You have contributed to an educational experience that has meaning for this student.

Please fax 608-785-8206, email to: [jcraig@uwlax.edu](mailto:jcraig@uwlax.edu), or mail to:

**Therapeutic Recreation**  
**Janet Craig**  
**UW-La Crosse**  
**1725 State Street**  
**2036 Health Science Center**  
**La Crosse, WI 54601**