

# Recreation Resource Management, MS

**Department:** Environment and Society Department

**College:** S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources

## Overview

### About This Degree

Formed in 2002, the Department of Environment and Society is the first of its kind in a college of natural resources in this country and has served as a model for the development of similar departments at other institutions of higher learning.

The recreation resource management program is a professional degree aimed at students interested in managing outdoor recreation settings, such as public forests and rangelands, state and national parks, and wilderness areas. An understanding of both the land itself and the people who visit these areas is critical in recreation professionals. The goal of the program is to train people to manage public land to provide high-quality experiences for visitors while protecting and preserving the land at the same time.

Recreation resource management graduates are familiar with a variety of land and water management issues, are grounded in social science, and are familiar with research methods and statistical analyses. USU is located within half a day's drive of six national parks, putting students in close proximity with field study opportunities at some of the most beautiful and most commonly visited recreation sites in the world.

## Career Options

Graduates in recreation resource management can pursue the following careers:

- Environmental interpreters
- Recreation planners
- Park rangers
- Monitors of environmental quality
- Tourism management and development
- Environmental visitor education
- Sustainability in nature-based tourism
- Trail crew supervisors
- Ski area employees
- Visitor center directors
- Wilderness rangers

## What it takes

### Admissions Requirements

Applicants from various undergraduate backgrounds may be considered. Depending on the student's desired area of research, certain prerequisite courses may be required.

To be accepted to the program, it is recommended that applicants first contact a specific faculty member with whom they are interested in working. If the faculty member is accepting graduate students and agrees to work with the student, the student can then apply by completing the following application requirements:

### Application Requirements:

- Complete the [online application](#)
- Pay the \$55 application fee
- Score at or above the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile on in the GRE
- Have a 3.2 or higher GPA on your last 60 semester or 90 quarter credits
- Provide transcripts of all college/university credits
- Provide three contacts for letters of recommendation

International students have [additional admissions requirements](#).

## Admissions Deadlines

The department has the following deadline:

- Fall semester – February 15

The degree programs in the Department of Environment and Society have rolling admission, meaning the department will continue to consider and accept applications until the program is full. The time it takes to process an application is primarily dependent on the speed with which the School of Graduate Studies receives letters of recommendation, transcripts, and test scores. For most students, this process may take six to eight weeks. Applicants should plan accordingly.

## Master's Degree Plan Options

Students can receive the MS by pursuing one of two options:

- In the **Plan A** option, students complete graduate-level coursework and must write a thesis.
- The **Plan B** option requires the production of a paper or creative work of art and is expected to reflect equivalent scholarship standards as a thesis.

## Financial Assistance

The Department of Environment and Society provides funding for most of its graduate students through [research assistantships](#), available through professors having contracts, grants, or other awards.

A variety of additional funding opportunities are available, including [fellowships](#), [scholarships](#), [tuition awards](#), and [travel support](#). Additionally, students may be eligible for subsidized [health insurance](#) through qualifying assistantships.

## Program Requirements

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Master of Science**.

Students must prepare and submit an article or other written product for publication by the time they graduate.

## Contact

### Advisor(s)

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## Get Involved

### Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

**International Association for Society and Natural Resources:** IASNR is an interdisciplinary professional association open to individuals who bring a variety of social science and natural science backgrounds to bear on research pertaining to the environment and natural resource issues.

**National Recreation and Park Association:** NRPA is the leading advocacy organization dedicated to the advancement of public parks and recreation opportunities.

### Labs, Centers, Research

**Institute for Outdoor Recreation and Tourism:** The IORT conducts a program of research to improve understanding of the relationships between outdoor recreation and tourism, natural resources management, community economic vitality, and quality of life.

**S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney Natural Resources Research Library:** The Quinney Library maintains collections of materials pertaining to natural resources and the environment in a number of formats that support the programs of study and research in the College of Natural Resources and several partnering centers. The library has more than 60,000 items, both print and electronic, as well as videos, images, and more.