

Internship and work experience opportunities can be instrumental in shaping the career path for young adults.



Internship programs provide that critical link between the academic setting and the work environment to enable students to explore areas of interest and apply their knowledge to determine the appropriate work environments that best match their skills and abilities.

An Austin Parks and Recreation internship gives a unique opportunity to learn about the park and recreation profession by working side by side with established professionals. The Department is looking for individuals who can solve problems; work as a member of a team; and be proactive and creative in their work. Our interns don't learn by watching, they learn by getting involved.

Our goal is to provide students with the following opportunities:

- Develop and refine technical skills
- Develop problem solving and critical thinking skills
- Offer career exploration
- Develop and refine communication skills
- Develop a professional ethic
- Develop teamwork skills
- Develop skills that can be used in multiple employment settings

In order to meet the demands of a more prepared work force, the Department offers two levels of internship opportunities: Introductory Internships and Leadership Internships.



THERAPEUTIC RECREATION INTERNSHIPS



Austin Parks and Recreation Department offers both adaptive and inclusive therapeutic recreation services. Our adaptive programs are based out of the Danny G. McBeth Recreation Center, while our inclusive services are primarily lead by the Inclusion Unit. Both the Inclusion Unit and Danny G. McBeth Recreation Center offer unique internship opportunities for Therapeutic Recreation students.

PARD offers two unique internship opportunities for therapeutic recreation students. Our McBeth Recreation Center interns work primarily with an adult day habilitation program and adaptive sports. Our Inclusion 360 interns work to provide safe and supportive environments for all in the City of Austin's recreation programs, activities, experiences and natural spaces

Our goal is to provide interns with a unique opportunity to learn about special populations in adaptive or inclusive settings through our Therapeutic Recreation Services, and thus help the intern choose a career direction in the field of Therapeutic Recreation and prepare to sit for the NCTRC examination. Both internships fulfill all NCTRC job task analysis areas throughout the 16 week internship.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Therapeutic Recreation Interns must be in the internship semester of either an undergraduate or graduate degree program at an accredited university majoring in Therapeutic Recreation with the intention to sit for the NCTRC Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist exam. Interns must have cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better and GPA of 3.5 or better in field of study

- Knowledge of the Therapeutic Recreation Process in community recreation settings.
- Knowledge of behavior management techniques for youth, teens, and adults with disabilities.
- Skill in modifying programs for adaptive and inclusive purposes.
- Skill in documenting Therapeutic Recreation services.
- Ability to work with youth, teens, adults and senior adults with disabilities.
- Ability to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate programs for youth, teens, and adults with disabilities in a community setting.
- Must have own transportation or ability to get to and from various locations.
- Must possess a good working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Publisher, and Excel.

INTERNSHIP INFORMATION

PARD currently employs 8 full time Recreation Therapists working for the department who accept interns. We pride ourselves on having the highest of standards for ourselves as well as our interns.

Intern Expectations:

- TR internships offered through the City of Austin are 16 weeks and a minimum of 600 hours.
- Facilitate programs for individuals with disabilities in various inclusive and/or adaptive settings.
- Interns will be involved with program design and presentation, special event planning, departmental meetings, and other assignments as determined by the university and the internship supervisor.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS

Email trinternships@austintexas.gov with any questions, for more information, and/or for the internship application.

Internship Dates:

Fall semester: August to December
Spring semester: January to May
Summer: Upon request