

Masters of Science Degree in Recreation Management and Policy

[The University of New Hampshire \(UNH\)](#), founded in 1866, is a world-class R1 research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land-, sea-, and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 12,300 undergraduate and 2,200 graduate students. UNH is ideally located in the Seacoast Region of New Hampshire, with ocean access within 20 minutes, mountain access within 1 hour, and access to large urban centers (Boston, MA, and Portland, ME) within 1.5 hours.

Applications are currently being accepted for a two-year Masters of Science degree in Recreation Management and Policy (RMP MS). The primary purpose of the RMP MS program is to prepare recreation professionals to advance in their careers and provide leadership in agencies and communities. The RMP MS program offers three unique options to students: 1) [Recreation Administration](#), 2) [Therapeutic Recreation Administration](#), and 3) [Adaptive Sport](#). The RMP MS program prepares students for specialized or advanced responsibilities in public, non-profit, private, and commercial agencies and organizations providing recreation, tourism, and leisure services. Most graduates of the program will likely enter professional practice; however, some will advance to high-level research positions and/or doctoral programs.

A *limited number of highly competitive* full-time and half-time **Graduate Assistantship positions** are also available for qualified students. Full-time Graduate Assistantship positions include a tuition/fee waiver, an annual graduate stipend valued at approximately \$21,000, other additional benefits, and require 20 hours of work per week throughout the academic year as a research or teaching assistant. Half-time Graduate Assistantship positions include a half tuition/fee waiver, an annual graduate stipend valued at approximately \$11,000, other additional benefits, and require 10 hours of work per week throughout the academic year as a research or teaching assistant. **The Graduate Assistant position begins in August.**

The RMP MS admission application process has 4 steps:


- 1) ***For all applicants:** Applicants must schedule an initial orientation zoom call with the RMP Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Michael Ferguson (michael.ferguson@unh.edu)
- 2) ***For all applicants:** Applicants must apply for admission online to the RMP MS program through the [UNH Graduate School online portal](#).
- 3) ***For applicants applying for funding:** Applicants must directly contact via email the RMP MS faculty member with whom they wish to work and set up a Zoom or phone interview (see below for RMP MS faculty bios and information).
- 4) ***For applicants applying for funding:** For individuals interested in applying for the *limited number of highly competitive* Graduate Assistantship funding: Applicants must complete the [RMP MS Graduate Assistantship Application](#) and email it directly to Dr. Michael Ferguson (Michael.Ferguson@unh.edu) no later than February 1.


Admission is based on a personal history that demonstrates the applicant's history of academic achievement and/or exemplary work experience, as well as the applicant's ability to articulate their desire and qualifications for graduate level research in Recreation Management and Policy. Applicants must have earned a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0, provide 2 letters of recommendation, and are encouraged to submit at least 1 high-quality writing sample to be considered for admission.


International applicants must also: 1) [complete the Extended Inquiry Form](#), and 2) [provide proof of English language proficiency \(TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, etc.\) from the testing agency](#) before submitting their full application. If your first language is English, your medium of instruction is English, or you have earned a degree within the U.S., you may request a [Test Score Waiver](#). More information for [international applicants can be found on the UNH Graduate School website](#).


Preference will be given to candidates with experience in therapeutic recreation, adaptive sport, outdoor recreation management, natural resource management, outdoor education, and/or social science research and project management. Applications will be reviewed on an on-going basis. **Any applicants *not* applying for funding may complete the first 2 steps and submit all requisite materials *on a rolling basis* -OR- Any applicants applying for funding must complete all 4 steps and submit all requisite materials no later than February 1.** Specific questions should be directed to the RMP Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Michael Ferguson (Michael.Ferguson@unh.edu).

**University of New Hampshire
Department of Recreation Management and Policy
Graduate Faculty Information**


	Dr. Jayson Seaman, Associate Professor and Chair Jayson.Seaman@unh.edu	
	Areas of expertise:	Youth development and Experiential Learning
		Qualitative research methodology
	Recent projects:	STEM Pathways for Rural Youth: Developing STEM Identity Through the Outdoors
New Hampshire's Workforce - Youth Retention Initiative		


	Dr. Brent Bell- Associate Professor Brent.Bell@unh.edu	
	Areas of expertise:	Outdoor orientation programs & college student development
		Risk management/wilderness medicine
	Recent projects:	Development of The Outdoor Orientation Benchmarking Survey (TOOBS)
Social status equalization and outdoor orientation programs: An exploratory study		


	Dr. Jessie Bennett- CTRS/L, Assistant Professor Jessie.Bennett@unh.edu	
	Areas of expertise:	Community-based health programs for veterans with behavioral health disorders
		Recreational therapy interventions, health, and wellness, military service members
	Recent projects:	Outcomes of a therapeutic fly-fishing program for veterans with combat-related disabilities
Community-based recreational therapy for veterans with behavioral health disorders: Impacts on quality of life, participation, and happiness		


	Dr. Patricia Craig- CTRS/L, Associate Professor Patricia.Craig@unh.edu	
	Areas of expertise:	Efficacy of recreational therapy interventions, community-based health promotion programs, physical medicine and rehabilitation, physical disability
		Professional preparation, pedagogy and curriculum, fieldwork, and service-learning outcomes
	Recent projects:	Using inclusive sport for social change in Malawi, Africa
The future of RT/TR education: Results from the ATRA Higher Education Task Force Study		

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Graduate Faculty Information Continued**

	Dr. Lauren Ferguson- Assistant Professor Lauren.Ferguson@unh.edu	
	Areas of expertise:	Nature and human health – coupled human and natural systems
		Acoustics and soundscapes
	Recent projects:	The phantom chorus: Birdsong boosts human well-being in protected areas
The influence of natural sounds on attention restoration		

	Dr. Michael Ferguson- Assistant Professor Michael.Ferguson@unh.edu	
	Areas of expertise:	Parks and protected areas management
		Outdoor recreation behaviors, decision-making, and experience quality
	Recent projects:	Assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic upon outdoor recreation visitation and behaviors in New England’s National Forests (*Related media)
A social-ecological systems approach to managing outdoor recreation visitation in parks and protected areas (*Related media)		

	Dr. Cindy Hartman- Associate Professor Cindy.Hartman@unh.edu	
	Areas of expertise:	Identity development
		Health and well-being
	Recent projects:	College-attending emerging adults’ free time perception profiles: Relationships with well-being and identity development
Youth Retention Initiative: For educational, occupational, and residential futures in New Hampshire		

	Dr. Forrest Schwartz- Lecturer Forrest.Schwartz@unh.edu	
	Areas of expertise:	Pro-environmental behavior; environmental ethics messaging and communication
		Outdoor and experiential education; Outdoor recreation behaviors
	Recent projects:	Mitigating undesignated trail use: The efficacy of messaging and direct site management actions in an urban-proximate open space context
Outdoor Adventure and Experiential Education and COVID-19: What Have We Learned?		