

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism**  
**PRLS 241 Practicum (3:3:0)**  
**Spring 2011**

<b>DAY/TIME:</b>	TBD by practicum site	<b>LOCATION:</b>	GMU affiliated site
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Dr. James C. Kozlowski	<b>E-MAIL:</b>	jkozlows@gmu.edu
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**PREREQUISITES:** PRLS 210 and 310 for majors; PRLS 210, 310, 316, 327

Corequisite: PRLS 410 for minors

Note: Open to majors and minors only

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Paid or voluntary work experience in a park and recreation agency. Minimum period of 10 to 12 weeks of part-time employment or experience. Capstone course for minors, allowing for integration and application of course work, theories, and research to a work setting. Work sites chosen among four approved sites. Includes meetings and assignments prior to and during the practicum.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** At the completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Experienced various aspects of facility operation (staff, organizational structure, funding base, clientele, budget, etc.).
3. Gain administrative, leadership and/or programming experience in the provision of parks and outdoor recreation/ therapeutic recreation services.
4. Gain experience in the development, maintenance and/or management of parks and outdoor recreation/ therapeutic recreation services.
5. Develop new understanding of internship and career prospects in the field of parks and outdoor recreation/ therapeutic recreation.

Further, upon completion of this course, students will meet the following professional accreditation standards:

*Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Related Professions standards met*

**8.28** **Formal field experience(s) of at least 100 total documented clock hours in appropriate professional recreation organizations/agencies prior to internship.** *Content to consider: May include a variety of experiences in required courses, in-depth experiences of greater duration, and required community service.*

## **REQUIREMENTS**

Under the direction of an on-site supervisor, 120 hours of field experience which satisfies the course objectives of the practicum and meets the needs of the facility. In the PRLS 241 Practicum, the focus is on providing each student with hands-on practical experience in programming and facility management.

For PRLS majors and minors, the PRLS 241 practicum is generally limited to one of three possible GMU affiliated sites: Hemlock Overlook with Susan Johnson [sjohnsoi@gmu.edu](mailto:sjohnsoi@gmu.edu) as the on-site supervisor, the Freedom Center with Leslie Shinner [lshinner@gmu.edu](mailto:lshinner@gmu.edu) as on-site supervisor, or the Fitness and Aquatics Center with Mickey McDade [cmcdade@gmu.edu](mailto:cmcdade@gmu.edu) as on-site supervisor. All three on-site supervisors for the PRLS 241 Practicum are also adjunct faculty in the PRLS program.

Depending on the student's background and interests, as well as the needs of a particular facility, the on-site supervisor will work with the student to produce an individualized practicum which can include a variety of work-related experiences.

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** Directed practicum experience at Hemlock Overlook Center for Outdoor Education, the Freedom Aquatic and Fitness Center, GMU Fitness and Aquatic Center or other approved site under supervision of a GMU adjunct faculty on site supervisor and POR faculty advisor. Opportunities provide for student to develop knowledge, values, and beginning practice skills appropriate for entry-level practice in Parks and Outdoor Recreation or Therapeutic Recreation agencies. Students are expected to work 120 hours within a period of 10 to 14 weeks.

**EVALUATION:** At the conclusion of the practicum, the on-site supervisor will attest to the satisfactory completion of the 120 hours of required field experience. The student will receive a grade of "Credit" for satisfactory completion of the 120 hours of required field experience. A grade of "No Credit" will be entered if the student fails to complete, quantitatively and/or qualitatively, the 120 hours of required field experience in a manner considered satisfactory by the on-site supervisor.

Depending upon the individual administrative procedures of the practicum site for existing personnel, the on-site supervisor will develop a procedure to track the hours logged by the individual student to meet the 120 hour practicum requirement. In addition, depending upon the existing evaluation and personnel procedures of the practicum site for existing personnel, the on-site supervisor, to the extent practicable, will develop a procedure to provide ongoing feedback and evaluation to the individual practicum student, as well as an exit interview/evaluation at the completion of the practicum experience. To the extent such evaluation materials are produced, at the discretion of the on-site supervisor, they will be made available to the student and faculty advisor for PRLS 241.

**Grading Scale** PASS/FAIL - CREDIT (S) "satisfactory" completion of requirements or NO CREDIT (NC)

Credit: all required hours, and above described course requirements must be completed in a satisfactory fashion.

No Credit: The student will receive a grade of "Credit" for satisfactory completion of the 120 hours of required field experience. A grade of "No Credit" will be entered if the student fails to complete, quantitatively and/or qualitatively, the 120 hours of required field experience in a manner considered satisfactory by the on-site supervisor.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Assignments are to be determined by the GMU-affiliated on-site supervisor which satisfies the course objectives of the practicum and meets the needs of the facility. In the PRLS 241 Practicum, the focus is on providing each student with hands-on practical experience in programming and facility management.



- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.
- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism, please visit our website [See <http://rht.gmu.edu/>].