

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

PRLS 241 (Section 001) – PRLS Practicum (3)  
Fall 2016

DAY/TIME: TBD by site                      LOCATION: approved GMU affiliated site  
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. James C. Kozlowski                      E-MAIL: jkozlows@gmu.edu  
OFFICE: Bull Run Hall 220                      PHONE: 703.455.8474 (cell)  
OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

PREREQUISITES: Sophomore status or higher in Parks and Outdoor Recreation (POR) or Therapeutic Recreation (TR) concentration or POR/TR minor

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Directed practicum experience at the Freedom Aquatic and Fitness Center, EDGE 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.

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.

NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY

Pre-internship field work experience at an approved GMU affiliated site

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.

### 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, an opportunity for a PRLS 241 practicum experience may be available at one of four possible GMU affiliated sites:

EDGE and Outdoor Adventures with Susan Johnson [sjohnsoi@gmu.edu](mailto:sjohnsoi@gmu.edu) as the on-site supervisor and [dheath@gmu.edu](mailto:dheath@gmu.edu) as the on-site supervisor for EDGE practicum students.

Freedom Center with Lee Ann Nordike, customer Service Coordinator at Freedom Aquatic and Fitness Center [lnordike@gmu.edu](mailto:lnordike@gmu.edu)

On a limited basis and subject to the expressed approval of Dr. James Kozlowski [jkozlows@gmu.edu](mailto:jkozlows@gmu.edu) PRLS majors with a concentration in Parks and Outdoor Recreation (POR) may also complete the practicum with Paul Gilbert, Executive Director NOVA Parks (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority) [pgilbert@nvrpa.org](mailto:pgilbert@nvrpa.org) and/or Chris Pauley, Director of Park Operations at NOVA Parks [cpauley@nvrpa.org](mailto:cpauley@nvrpa.org)

Subject to the approval of Dr. Brenda Wiggins [bwiggins@gmu.edu](mailto:bwiggins@gmu.edu), PRLS majors with a concentration in Therapeutic Recreation (TR) may also complete the practicum with the Mason LIFE program with Dr. Heidi Graff [hgraff@gmu.edu](mailto:hgraff@gmu.edu)

### GRADING SCALE

S (satisfactory) completion of all required hours, and above described course requirements in a satisfactory fashion as confirmed by the GMU affiliated on-site supervisor.

NC (no credit) failure to compile all required hours, and above described course requirements in a satisfactory fashion as confirmed by the GMU affiliated on-site supervisor.

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Based on the individual 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 schedule which can include a variety of work-related experiences.

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### *Student Expectations*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services and inform their instructor, in writing, as soon as possible. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].
- 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.

### *Campus Resources*

- 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/>].

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR: Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

CORE VALUES COMMITMENT: The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are

expected to adhere to these principles.

