

Bachelor of Science (B.S.)
Recreational Therapy
Secondary Application Required

**2026 – 2027
Catalog Year**

1st Year					
Fall		Winter		Summer	
AHS 110 Introduction to Health Care	3	^{2&3} BIO 120 General Biology I <small>GE Life Science</small>	4	As Needed	
General Education Course <small>GE Physical Science</small>	3	PSY 101 Intro. Psychology <small>GE Soc & Behav. Science</small>	3		
¹ MTH 110 Algebra <small>Prerequisite for STA 215</small>	4	⁴ General Education <small>Foundation- Writing</small>	4		
General Education Course <small>GE Art</small>	3	General Education Course <small>Philosophy & Literature</small>	3		
Elective	1	Elective	1		
Total 14		Total 15			
2nd Year					
Fall		Winter <small>(Apply to program by Feb. 15th)¹</small>		Summer	
AHS 100 Medical Terminology	3	⁵ BMS 251 Anatomy & Physiology II	4	As Needed	
⁵ BMS 250 Anatomy & Physiology I	4	PSY 303 Psychopathology	3		
PSY 364 Life Span Developmental Psychology	3	STA 215 Introductory Applied Statistics <small>GE Math</small>	3		
General Education Course <small>Historical Analysis</small>	3	General Education Course <small>U.S. Diversity</small>	3		
General Education Course <small>Social & Behavioral Sciences</small>	3	General Education Course <small>Global Perspectives</small>	3		
Total 16		Total 16			
3rd Year					
Fall		Winter		Summer	
RTX 300 Foundations for Rec. Therapy <small>SWS</small>	3	RTX 306 Comprehensive Rec. Therapy Prog.	3	RTX 390 Fieldwork (300 hours)	3
RTX 302 Leisure, Health, and Wellness <small>Issues</small>	3	RTX 308 Leadership for Recreational Therapy	3		
RTX 304 Diagnostic Groups in Rec. Therapy	3	⁶ RTX Intervention Intensive <small>(RTX 321, 322, 323, or 324)</small>	1		
RTX 389 Recreational Therapy Placement Prep.	1	⁶ RTX Intervention Intensive <small>(RTX 321, 322, 323, or 324)</small>	1		
PSY 225 Educational Psy. or PSY 365 Cognition	3	⁷ RTX Specialty Area <small>(RTX 313, 316 or 317 see notes)</small>	3		
Elective <small>(as needed to reach 120 cr.) (MOV 102-First Aid, CPR & AED)</small>	2	⁷ RTX Specialty Area <small>(RTX 313, 316 or 317 see notes)</small>	3		
Total 15		Total 15			
4th Year					
Fall		Winter		Summer	
MOV 300 Kinesiology	3	MOV 304 Introduction to Exercise Physiology	3	RTX 490 Internship (600 hours)	6
RTX 404 Trends & Issues in Rec. Therapy	3	RTX 405 Management for Rec. Therapy	3		
RTX 407 Assess. & Documentation in Rec. Therapy	3	RTX 410 Research and Eval in Rec. Therapy	3		
⁷ RTX Specialty Area <small>(RTX 315 only see notes)</small>	3	⁷ RTX Specialty Area <small>(RTX 313, 316 or 317 see notes)</small>	3		
General Education Course <small>Issues & SWS</small>	3	Elective <small>(as needed to reach 120 credits)</small>	3		
Total 15		Total 15		Total 6	

Curriculum Notes

- ¹ MTH 108 and MTH 109 or passing [Math 110 Placement test](#) may be taken in place of MTH 110.
- ² BIO 120 is not required and is listed only as a prerequisite to BMS 250.
- ³ CMB 155 (lec) & 156 (lab) may be taken in place of BIO 120 as needed.
- ⁴ Student may take WRT 120 & WRT 130 or WRT 150 to meet their Foundation- Writing requirement. A Grade of "C" or better is required in WRT 130 or WRT 150.
- ⁵ BMS 208, 290 & 391 may be taken in place of BMS 250 & 251 (BMS 309 is not required)
- ⁶ Two Recreational Therapy Intensives are required in 3rd year winter.
- ⁷ Two Recreational Therapy Specialty Area electives are required... but may take all four.

RTX Intervention Intensives – 2 Required

- RTX 321: Therapeutic Use of Sport in Recreational Therapy (1 cr.)
- RTX 322: Therapeutic Use of Art in Recreational Therapy (1 cr.)
- RTX 323: Adventure-Based Interventions in Recreational Therapy (1 cr.)
- RTX 324: Aquatic-Based Interventions in Recreational Therapy (1 cr.)

RTX Specialty Areas – 2 Required

- RTX 313: Recreational Therapy for Physical Disability – winter only (3 cr.)
- RTX 315: Recreational Therapy for Mental Health – fall only (3 cr.)
- RTX 316: Recreational Therapy for Older Adults – winter only (3 cr.)
- RTX 317: Recreational Therapy for Pediatrics – winter only (3 cr.)

Special Notes:

- This is a suggested curriculum guide and might not be applicable to every student.
- Courses that include 'GE' are required classes that are in the major **AND** fulfill a General Education requirement.
- Two (2) Supplemental Writing Skills (SWS) courses are required.
- Student must have a **minimum of 120 credits** to graduate with **58 of the 120 credits** being from a senior level institution and the **final 30 of the 120 credits** completed at GVSU. Additional electives may be needed to meet these requirements.

Application Process for Recreational Therapy

Application Information

The Recreational Therapy program at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) is a "Secondary Admission Program" which means that any person interested in taking courses within the program must first be admitted to GVSU and upon meeting admission prerequisites (see below), are required to submit a "Secondary" application.

Transfer students will follow the same process and meet the same criteria. Transfer students should provide a copy of the course syllabus for any recreation/therapeutic recreation classes they want to transfer to Grand Valley State University.

The admissions process for Recreational Therapy consists of three phases. These phases are outlined below:

Phase I

The following application prerequisites should be met or in progress at the time of application.

- Overall GPA of 2.7 or above
- PSY 101 Introductory Psychology

Phase II

The application consists of the following components, all of which must be completed and submitted by **February 15th**, for priority consideration. Applications will continue to be accepted until all program seats are filled. Applications and supplemental forms are available online at www.gvsu.edu/rectx

- ✓ GVSU Undergraduate Application (only required for students who are not currently a GVSU student)
- ✓ Recreational Therapy Program Application (submitted online)
- ✓ Essay on why you have selected Recreational Therapy as a major. Be sure to include your leadership experience and work with individuals who have disabilities.
- ✓ Statement of Professional Goals identifying future goals in Recreational Therapy
- ✓ Fifty (50) hours of volunteer or paid work in a therapeutic setting. Twenty (20) hours must be under the supervision of a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS)
 - Document using "Verification of Paid/Volunteer Work History" form (on website)
- ✓ Official and updated transcripts from all non-GVSU colleges/universities sent directly to GVSU Admissions
- ✓ Two (2) Recommendations on program specific forms from Recreational Therapist, related health care, or other recreation professionals with whom the applicant has completed volunteer or paid work hours.

Phase III

Upon completion of Phases I and II, applicants will be notified of provisional admission into the program and will be asked to set up an advising appointment with a member of the Recreational Therapy faculty and will be able to register for the first semester of program coursework (RTX 300, RTX 302, RTX 304 & RTX 389). Upon successful completion of these four courses (80% competency/B- in each course), they will be granted full admission into the Recreational Therapy program.

For priority consider application and all supplemental materials should be submitted online by February 15. Applications will be accepted after the deadline until all program seats are filled.

The Recreational Therapy undergraduate major resides in the College of Health Professions (CHP)
For more information or to meet with a CHP Student Services academic advisor please call (616) 331-5900
Visit our website at www.gvsu.edu/chpss and the TR website at www.gvsu.edu/rectx