The Therapeutic Recreation option prepares students as Recreational Therapists which is an allied health profession that provides treatment/therapy for individuals in hospitals, physical rehabilitation facilities, psychiatric treatment facilities, skilled nursing facilities, public schools, long-term care facilities, and private practices. The Recreational Therapist provides treatment/therapy which aids individuals in restoring, enhancing, and/or eliminating illness and disease.

**Job Descriptions**

**29-1125.00 – Recreational Therapist**

Recreational therapists plan, direct, and coordinate recreation-based treatment programs for people with disabilities, injuries, or illnesses. Recreational therapists use a variety of modalities, including arts and crafts, drama, music, dance, sports, games, and community reintegration field trips to help maintain or improve a patient’s physical, social, and emotional well-being.


**National Job Outlook and Wages**

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<td></td>
<td>$21.88 hourly, $45,520 annual</td>
<td>Average (10% to 19%)</td>
<td>19,800</td>
<td>As fast as average</td>
<td>Health Care and Social Assistance; Government</td>
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Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Possible Career Paths**

Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists (CTRS) work in healthcare systems. The CTRS might choose employment in areas such as:

- Inpatient psychiatric treatment facilities
- Partial psychiatric hospitalization
- Residential psychiatric treatment facilities
- Public schools
- Intensive Care Units for children
- Long-term care facilities
- Private practice
- Correctional facilities
- Juvenile services
- Park and Recreation facilities
- Adult day centers
- Sheltered workshops
- Other treatment and non-treatment oriented agencies which provide services to individuals with disabilities

**Oklahoma Job Outlook and Wages**

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<td></td>
<td>$17.84 hourly, $37,100 annual</td>
<td>330 employees</td>
<td>Average (10% to 19%)</td>
<td>20 (2010-2020)</td>
<td>Health Care and Social Assistance; Government</td>
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</table>

Source: Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, Economic Research & Analysis Division
Skills Needed to be Successful…

**Active Listening** — Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

**Speaking** — Talking to others to convey information effectively.

**Service Orientation** — Actively looking for ways to help people.

**Social Perceptiveness** — Being aware of others’ reactions and understanding why they react as they do.

**Coordination** — Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.

**Critical Thinking** — Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.

**Reading Comprehension** — Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.

**Complex Problem Solving** — Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.

**Instructing** — Teaching others how to do something.

**Writing** — Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience.

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**Related Clubs & Organizations at OSU**

- Therapeutic Recreation Majors Club
- Therapeutic Recreation Association of Oklahoma (TRAO)

For more information about these organizations go to http://campuslink.okstate.edu/

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**Related National Organizations**

- American Therapeutic Recreation Association
  http://www.atra-online.com

- National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification
  (for information about certification)
  http://www.nctrc.org

- Therapeutic Recreation Association of Oklahoma (TRAO)
  http://www.trao.net

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**Professional Journals**

- Therapeutic Recreation Journal
  http://js.sagamorepub.com/trj

- American Journal of Recreational Therapy
  http://www.pnpco.com/pn10000.html

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**Additional Related Websites**

- Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

- Committee on Accreditation of Recreational Therapy Education
  http://www.caahep.org/carpe

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
  Occupational Outlook Handbook Definition
  http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/recreational-therapists.htm

- Therapeutic Recreation Directory
  http://www.recreationtherapy.com/