

Recreational Therapy Internship Handbook

RECTH 5828-Recreational Therapy Internship



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Department of Occupational & Recreational Therapies
RECTH 5828 – 12 Credits
Recreational Therapy Internship

Introduction

The Recreational Therapy (RT) Internship is the capstone experience of the student's academic career. Securing a professional internship is the responsibility of the student. This process is critical and takes extensive, advanced research and preparation. The student will want to explore what population and setting is of the greatest interest and what type of supervisor will best fit their learning style. This experience is the critical connection between academia and practice and is designed to combine practical professional experience with the theoretical and philosophical foundations studied in traditional academic setting. The student will not only learn about the profession and practice of RT but also about themselves as a person and a professional. The student learns to identify and build on their strengths and interests, and address their limitations. This handbook is intended to guide the RT student through the process of securing and successfully completing their internship.

The purpose of the recreational therapy internship is:

- 1) To assist students in gaining an understanding and appreciation of the roles, duties, and responsibilities of a RT professional.
 - 2) To comply with the internship requirements of both the Utah Recreational Therapy Practice Act <http://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title58/Chapter40/58-40.html> & <http://dopl.utah.gov/laws/R156-40.pdf> and the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) <http://nctrc.org/>.
 - 3) To expose the student to the implementation of the RT process and all areas of the current NCTRC National Job Analysis. <https://www.nctrc.org/about-certification/national-job-analysis/>
 - 4) To evaluate the student's competencies for practice in recreational therapy.
 - 5) To obtain evaluation by an Agency RT Supervisor as to the level of practical competency obtained and the potential to further develop as a clinician in the practice of recreational therapy.
 - 6) To learn the process of self-evaluating personal performance regarding professional competencies both knowledge and tasks, in the practice of recreational therapy.
 - 7) To provide the student with experiences that increase the understanding of people and human relations, and to develop the skills and abilities to work effectively with patients, clients, residents, and/or participants.
 - 8) To introduce the student to professional commitments such as professional membership and involvement in local, state, and national organizations.
 - 9) To engage the student in professional leadership and advocacy opportunities.
 - 10) To prepare the student for future professional practice in recreational therapy.
- The RT curriculum was designed to help students be eligible to sit the NCTRC exam and obtain Utah state licensure. However, we cannot guarantee students will be eligible for the NCTRC exam and Utah state licensure.

Internship Standards

The internship experience adheres to both Utah State RT licensing standards, NCTRC certification internship standards, and the University of Utah's Recreational Therapy program standards. To successfully complete an internship withing the RT program the student must:

- Register for RECTH 5828 (12 credits)
- Secure an internship placement at an approved internship agency.
- Identify a supervisor who is a licensed (where applicable) and CTRS certified professional who has a least one year of experience in the field of Recreational Therapy.
- Complete a minimum of 560 hours.
- Must have a minimum of 14 consecutive weeks.
- Minimum of 20 hours per week.
- Maximum of 45 hours per week.

Procedures for Internship in Recreational Therapy RECTH 5828

The following steps outline the procedures for the RECTH 5828 Recreational Therapy Internship. Any exceptions to these procedures will be reviewed on a student-by-student basis and all determinations will be provided in writing to the student by the Clinical Education Coordinator, Recreational Therapy (CEC).

NOTE: All forms submitted by the student must be typed and professional in appearance. All dates for submission of materials are strictly adhered to unless there are valid circumstances such as major illness, death in the family, or late cancellation by the facility.

Step One: Student Prerequisites

- All RECTH coursework must be completed with a C or higher prior to enrollment in RECTH 5828: RECTH 3330, RECTH 3360, RECTH 4300, RECTH 4310, RECTH 4320, RECTH 4330, RECTH 5300, RECTH 5350, & RECTH 5360;
- All supportive coursework must be completed with a C or higher prior to enrollment in RECTH 5828;
- All compliance requirements must be current prior to enrollment in RECTH 5828 (see all requirements in Undergraduate Handbook/Compliance Requirements:
- Professional membership (URTA and/or ATRA);
- Minimal overall GPA of 2.5 for in-state, 3.3 for out-of-state or remote supervision, 3.7 for international placement;
- Department approval;
- The student must enroll in RECTH 5828 Recreational Therapy Internship within one year of the completion of all required Recreational Therapy course work;
- All university graduation requirements – including any minor coursework – must be completed prior to RECTH 5828.

Step Two: Student Eligibility Requirements:

The student must complete and submit, *Recreational Therapy Internship Eligibility Form* (Form 1) to the OTRT Academic Advisor by:

Spring Internship: September 1st

Summer Internship: February 1st
Fall Internship: May 1st

The Academic Advisor will review and notify student of eligibility. When the student meets all requirements and is eligible the, Academic Advisor will forward the *Recreational Therapy Internship Eligibility Form* (Form 1) to the Clinical Education Coordinator, Recreational Therapy (CEC).

Note: Any pending requirements such as compliance items, course, and GPA will be reviewed prior to the student's internship start date. If items are no longer compliant, the student will not be eligible to start their internship hours. The student must obtain approval from the CEC to begin internship hours.

Step Three: Agency Selection and Acceptance:

The student must find and secure the recreational therapy internship placement from the preapproved agency list. This list is located in the Recreational Therapy Canvas Course/Clinical Education/Approved Internship Agencies. Once the student has secured a placement the student must submit the *Recreational Therapy Agency Acceptance Form* (Form 2) to the Recreational Therapy Coordinator of Clinical Education (CEC) by:

Spring Internship: October 1st
Summer Internship: March 1st
Fall Internship: June 1st

If a student wishes to do an internship at an agency that is not currently on the pre-approved agency the student will need to:

- Email the CEC and request the *Agency Information and Application Form (AIAF)*.
- Request that the agency supervisor complete the AIAF and return the form to the student.
- The student will then submit the AIAF to the CEC for review. The AIAF must be submitted by the following dates:
 - Spring Internship: September 1st
 - Summer Internship: February 1st
 - Fall Internship: May 1st
- The agency will be reviewed to ensure it meets the University of Utah internship placement guidelines. If approved the CEC will begin the process of securing a Clinical Training Agreement between the agency and the University of Utah. Submitting the application does not guarantee the agency will be approved. The Department of OTRT reserves the right to accept or reject an agency's application.

Internship Policies

- The Internship agency and supervisor needs to be selected carefully. Once you have agreed to the academic/professional work experience you must fulfill your commitment for the duration of the placement agreement. If the internship is terminated before completion date (by the agency, the academic supervisor or

the student) no credit will be earned. Student will receive a failing grade and must repeat RECTH 5828.

- The student may be required to obtain a current background check, drug screen or other compliance items. It is the student's responsibility to obtain these compliance requirements.
- The student is responsible for expenses incurred during the placement: food, housing, transportation, living arrangements, etc.
- When compensation is a part of the internship agreement it is negotiated between the student and the agency and must be documented prior to the beginning of the internship.
- The student will provide her or his own professional liability insurance when requested or if the internship is an out-of-state or international placement.
- If a student is seeking an out-of-state or international internship placement, Form 2 is submitted to the CEC who then meets with the RT Internship Review Committee. All out-of-state or international internship placements must be approved by this faculty committee.
- The internship experience adheres to Utah State RT licensing standards, NCTRC internship standards and the University of Utah's Recreational Therapy Program Standards (Noted in the Internship Standards as the beginning of this document).
- It is the agencies choice whether they offer an internship with reduced hours and extended weeks. This arrangement would need to be clearly outlined and documented with the CEC prior to beginning the internship experience.
- The student will not be placed at an agency where they are currently employed, nor can the student assume employment at the agency while completing their internship.
- After Form 2 is approved student will receive a letter from the CEC confirming placement. The letter will provide student with a one-time permission code that allows the student to register for RECTH 5828, Recreational Therapy Internship. The student will register for 12 credit hours. If a student is completing an out-of-state or international internship the letter will also include information informing the student how to obtain professional liability insurance.
- Students who have not completed their internship hours by the semester's Grades Due date (found on the Academic Calendar) will receive a "T" grade and may continue their internship hours. The "T" will not be cleared until the internship course has been successfully completed. It is important to note that this may delay your graduation as degrees cannot post until after the grade has been cleared in the system. The only way to guarantee that a degree will post within the semester is to complete the internship hours by the Grades Due date.

Step Four: Student Placement at RT Agency

Student begins internship placement at the prearranged date and at the agreed upon time.

Successful Completion of Internship

It is important to understand that successful completion of an internship is twofold:

- (1) The student must receive a grade of a "C" or better in the required academic coursework as outlined in the course syllabus.
- (2) The student must receive a "Successful Completion" on the Final Agency Evaluation of Student-TRIE from the site supervisor. The Final Agency Evaluation of Student asks the agency supervisor to indicate one of the following:
 - Successful Completion
 - Incomplete
 - Unsuccessful Completion

These are defined as follows:

Successful Completion: The student passes the internship experience and received grade according to the points earned.

Incomplete: The student has not successfully met the agencies requirements for a successful internship. The academic supervisor will meet with the agency supervisor, to outline with the student the specific tasks on the NCTRC Job Analysis the student needs additional experience and training to achieve "Successful Completion" for the internship. Together an individualized plan for the student will be developed that includes specific outcomes and additional hours required. The student will receive a "T" for a grade in the course, which indicates the internship is still in progress.

Unsuccessful Completion: The student has not met the agency requirements for a successful internship. If an agency supervisor records an "Unsatisfactory" on the student's Final Agency Evaluation of Student-TRIE the agency supervisor is stating the student is not able to meet the required competencies of the agency's internship. The agency has met with the student throughout the internship documenting concerns regarding the student's abilities and performance, university supervisor was notified of concerns, and student and university supervisor have discussed the performance issues.

When given an unsuccessful the agency supervisor is stating the internship experience is over and the student has not met the stated guidelines of the agencies internship thus receiving a "Unsuccessful". Additionally, the agency supervisor cannot verify that the student meets the minimal competencies as outlined on the student evaluation, which references the NCTRC Job Analysis.

Professional Statements:

***Confidentiality Statement**

As a student and a future professional it is your ethical duty to protect each person, client, resident, or participant. Confidentiality includes not using or discussing the names and personal information of clients outside of the agency,

where your internship experience has taken place. If you use information about clients within your internship assignments you must insure to remove any and all information that may identify that person or persons.

***NCTRC Statement**

The internship experience should be a minimum of 560-hours and 14 weeks in RT/TR services that uses the APIED process as defined by the current NCTRC Job Analysis Study under the Supervision of both academic and agency internship supervisors who are NCTRC CTRS certified. The agency supervisor must also possess the CTRS credential for one year prior to supervising an internship student. <https://www.nctrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CertificationStandards.pdf>

“Always walk through life as if you have something new to learn and you will.”

Vernon Howard

Responsibilities:

The Department of Occupational and Recreational Therapies OTRT will hereafter be "the Department" or "OTRT."

Responsibilities of the Department to the RT Student:

- A. To prepare student for an internship experience through academic preparation by discussing experiences one may expect to encounter, review reports and paperwork required to document the experience, and ensure students' understanding of professional standards of conduct they will be expected to observe.
- B. To assist students with internship placements by assisting with agency selection, processing internship paperwork and requests, assisting in communication with agencies when necessary, and providing academic supervision when necessary.
- C. To maintain open communication with the Agency RT Supervisor and student through email, personal site visits, and telephone conversations to review student progress and solve any problems that may arise.
- D. To be a resource for the internship agency and the Agency RT Supervisor.
- E. To conduct an onsite visit during the internship experience for all students who complete the experience within the Greater Wasatch Front. Telephone, internet, or other media communication contact is used for students who complete experience outside the State of Utah.
- F. To provide prompt feedback on all assignments or concerns.
- G. Assign grades based on university assignments and the evaluations of the Agency RT Supervisor.
- H. Conduct evaluation to enhance the curriculum and internship experience, and create information exchanges with student to assist with career and educational opportunities.

Responsibilities of the Department Academic RT Supervisor to the Agency RT Supervisor:

- A. Provide the Agency RT Supervisor with a Recreational Therapy Internship Handbook. The handbook will communicate student, agency, and OTRT-RT responsibilities, including, but not limited to the following:
 - Purpose of internship experience;
 - RT procedures for internship experience;
 - Responsibilities of OTRT-RT Program, agency and student.
- B. Maintain open communication with the Agency RT Supervisor by periodically contacting the Agency RT Supervisor in person, electronically, or by telephone to review the student's progress.
- C. To thank the sponsor for the time and effort spent with the student.

Responsibilities of the OTRT-RT Student to the Agency and Agency RT Supervisor:

- A. Complete and document the minimum 560 clock hours, in a minimum of 14 consecutive weeks during the semester or a maximum of 28 weeks. A minimum of 20 hours and maximum of 45 hours per week throughout the internship are the hourly guidelines.

*If agency requires additional hours those hours must also be documented and established when placement is finalized.

- B. Maintain a positive attitude and willingness to learn for the entire semester. This is a critical piece for your professional future. It must be noted that the internship comes with a variety of experiences some more challenging than others. It is up to the student to evaluate each situation and seize the learning opportunity.
- C. Present a professional appearance and behavior at all times including consistent and timely attendance.
- D. Become familiar with the agency's policies and procedures and conduct activities in a manner that is consistent with those policies and procedures.
- E. Adhere to all professional and regulatory standards outlined by the agency.
- F. Arrange for and attend the site visit meeting with the Academic RT Supervisor and Agency RT Supervisor.
- G. Complete all assignments assigned by the agency in a professional and timely manner.
- H. Thank the Agency RT Supervisor in person, and by formal letter, for providing the opportunity of the internship experience.
 - Provide copy of letter to Academic Supervisor for student's records.

Responsibilities of the OTRT-RT Student to the Department of OTRT-RT:

- A. Be a good citizen and representative of the University of Utah, the College of Health, and the Department of Occupational and Recreational Therapies.
- B. Attend internship orientation meeting to determine internship timeline and review the academic requirements of the internship.
- C. Complete and submit all assigned paperwork in a professional and timely manner.
- D. Maintain open communication with the Academic RT Supervisor, inform supervisor immediately of any concerns or complications regarding your placement.
- E. Schedule a site visitation with the Academic Supervisor and Agency RT Supervisor which will include:
 - a. Observation of facilities and programs (when appropriate)
 - b. Review student's work responsibilities
 - c. A face-to-face meeting (when location allows) to discuss student performance and necessary outcomes.

Responsibilities of Agency RT Supervisor to Student:

- A. Agency RT Supervisor will be licensed in the State of Utah as a TRS or MTRS and nationally certified by NCTRC as a CTRS throughout the entire internship placement. If student has an out-of-state placement all state credentials and national certification by NCTRC as a CTRS must be maintained throughout the entire internship.
- B. Facilitate learning using the NCTRC National Job Analysis and the Utah Recreational Therapy Practice Act.
- C. Provide professional and ethical recreational therapy services according to the ATRA Standards of Practice, ATRA Code of Ethics, and the Utah Recreational Therapy Practice Act.

- D. Prepare facility for the arrival of a student intern and represent the student as a learning professional within the agency.
- E. Present student with an internship handbook that guides the student experience and outlines expectations, competencies, and expected work schedule.
- F. Facilitate student orientation to the agency, clinical practice, interdisciplinary team members, policies, procedures, and agency regulations.
- G. Provide access to administrative support and office resources such as phone, fax, email, professional publications, and meetings; as appropriate and in direct relationship to student responsibilities.
- H. Meet with the student a minimum of one time per week for clinical supervision.
- I. Conduct formal evaluations with the student.
- J. Attend one time per semester a meeting with student and Academic RT Supervisor scheduled by the student, with the Agency RT Supervisor to be held at the agency.
- K. Encourage the highest professional standards, expose student to professional regulations, professional practice, continuing education opportunities, and the understanding of the need for continuing education.

Form 1

Recreational Therapy

Internship Eligibility Form

Please complete Form 1 and submit to the OTRT Department Academic Advisor by:

- ☐ Spring Internship: September 1st
- ☐ Summer Internship: February 1st
- ☐ Fall Internship: May 1st

Semester and year of proposed Internship: _____

Part 1: Student Information: This form must be typed.

Student Name: _____ UNID: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

University Email Address: _____

Overall GPA: _____ RECTH GPA: _____

Please read statements below. Check box indicated that you have read and agree to the statement and sign below.

I have read and understand the information provided in the Internship Handbook.

I certify that all compliance requirements are current and marked as complete in CastleBranch.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Typed form represents an electronic signature.

Part 2: For Academic Advisor Use Only

| Compliance Requirement | Approved | Incomplete |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| 3 – Step Criminal Background Check | | |
| Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) | | |
| Varicella/Chicken Pox | | |
| Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap) | | |
| Hepatitis B | | |
| 2 - Step Tuberculosis Test | | |
| COVID-19 Vaccination | | |
| Influenza | | |
| Health Insurance Verification | | |
| Basic Life Support Training (BLS) | | |
| HIPAA Certification | | |
| Recreational Therapy Internship Handbook Acknowledgement | | |
| C or higher in RECTH and supportive coursework | | |
| Minimal overall GPA of 2.5 for in-state, 3.3 for out-of-state or remote supervision, 3.7 for international placement | | |

Eligible

Not Eligible

Pending

OTRT Academic Advisor's Signature: _____

Comments:

Form 2
Recreational Therapy
Internship Agency Acceptance Form

Please complete Form 2 and submit to the OTRT Department Clinical Education Coordinator by:

- ☐ Spring Internship: October 1st
- ☐ Summer Internship: March 1st
- ☐ Fall Internship: June 1st

Note: This form must be typed.

Student Name: _____ UNID: _____

Agency Information

Agency Name: _____

Agency Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Supervisor Information

Name of Supervisor _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

State License Number (If applicable): _____

NCTRC Certification Number: _____

Hours per week worked at agency indicated above: _____

Please indicate the percentage of job duties within RT service delivery:

___ 100% RT Process

___ 75% RT Process & 25% Administration/Other

___ 50% RT process & 50% Administration/Other

___ 25% RT Process & 75% Administration/Other

Internship Position Information

Beginning Date: _____

Ending Date: _____

Total Number of Weeks: _____

Required Number of Hours: _____ (560 Minimum)

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Agency RT Supervisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Typed form represents an electronic signature.

Recreational Therapy Internship Handbook Acknowledgement

Dear Student:

Please read the following statement and sign the bottom of this form acknowledging you have received a copy of the Recreational Therapy Internship Handbook. This form will need to be uploaded into the CastleBranch/Verified Credentials and is required to be submitted prior to your Form 1 submission.

Statement:

I have received and read the Recreational Therapy Internship Handbook.

I understand that it is my responsibility to understand and meet the requirements outlined in the handbook including but not limited to internship policies and form due dates.

I understand that it is my responsibility to upload this acknowledgement into CastleBranch/Verified Credentials prior to my Form 1 Submission.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

*Typed form represents an electronic signature.