

Brock
University

Department of

**Recreation and
Leisure Studies**

**DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAM
FOR PROFESSIONALS**



Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies

The **Degree Completion for Professionals** program is designed for working professionals exploring options to complete a degree for career advancement or pursue further credentials.



Degree Obtained

The degree completion program is built to support professionals in obtaining the Bachelor of Recreation and Leisure Studies (3-year pass degree).

Students can pursue the 4-year BRLS with a concentration in Therapeutic (TR) or Community Recreation (CR), but this will require further on-campus and in person coursework.

Admission Requirements

To be eligible for this unique opportunity students must have the following:

1. A two-year diploma in Recreation and Leisure Services or Recreation Therapy with a cumulative 75% or higher average. Students may be prior graduates of any college or university.
2. Three years of full time (or a minimum of 6000 hours of part time) paid, non-seasonal employment in a recreation related profession. Students pursuing the BRLS with concentration in TR must have 6000 hours working in Therapeutic Recreation.
3. Current employment in a recreation related profession.

Duration

The timeline to graduation depends on the degree option selected and the number of college transfer credits awarded to the student. Students pursuing the 15 credit BRLS can expect 6 to 8 terms of study.

Program Entry

Courses are offered in three terms: Fall (September to December), Winter (January to April) and Spring/Summer (May to August). Students may enter the program in any term.



Sample Schedule

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
January to April	Research Design and Evaluation Research Methods (Qualitative or Quantitative) 1.0 credit	Social Psychology of Leisure Sociology of Leisure & Diversity 1.0 credit	Rec Theory course Context credit or elective 1.0 credit
May to August	TR or CR course Context credit or elective 1.0 credit	Rec Theory course Context credit or elective 1.0 credit	Research Methods Context credit or elective 1.5 credit
September to December	Context credit or elective 1.5 credit	TR or CR concentration courses 1.5 credits	Year 4 theory and research courses 1.5 credits
	3.5 credits	3.5 credits	4.0 credits

***Based on a student receiving 9 transfer credits and completing the 20 credit degree on a part time basis.*





Classroom and Online Learning

Courses are scheduled in the following formats:

Online (fully synchronous or asynchronous), online blended (some synchronous and some asynchronous) or blended locations (includes both online and in-person course components).

The in-person components of your RECL courses would be offered at Brock University or in the GTA.

National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification

Students in the Therapeutic Recreation concentration graduate prepared to write the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) exam to become a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS).

Courses in Therapeutic and Community Recreation

Specific recreation courses are considered 'electives' for students working toward obtaining the pass degree and are requirements for students working toward the 20-credit degree with a concentration.

Courses in Therapeutic Recreation

- Leisure Education
- TR programming and Facilitation
- Assessment
- Leisure and Behavioural Health
- Leisure and Disabilities

Courses in Community Recreation

- Child and Youth Work
- Marketing
- Organizational Behaviour
- Finance
- Community Development
- Health Promotion
- Planning and Innovation





What to expect from the Degree Completion Program?

- Access to part time coursework in blended and online formats (e.g., less than three half-credit courses per term).
- Courses offered in three terms: Fall, Winter, and Spring/Summer.
- The timeline to graduation depends on the degree option and the number of transfer credits awarded to the student. Please find more information about transfer credit pathways from college by visiting brocku.ca/admissions/undergraduate/transfer-students/pathways-and-agreements
- For students pursuing the 15 credit BRLS degree on a part-time basis, the approximate timeline to graduation is six to eight terms.
- For students pursuing the 20 credit BRLS degree on a part-time basis, the approximate timeline to graduation is eight to ten terms.
- Part time students are eligible for student awards and can apply for OSAP.



Application Process

The Recreation and Leisure Studies department will verify your professional experience first.

Once accepted to the professional pathways program, follow the process for transfer student applications directly to Brock University (there is a fee associated with the application). At this stage your college credits would be assessed, and any applicable credits would be applied to your course load.



Scan to apply online or visit
brocku.ca/applied-health-sciences/recreation-leisure





Testimonials

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Returning to school full-time while juggling a full-time job and family was definitely a challenge but is something that I couldn't have done without the Degree Pathway for Professionals at Brock University. I have worked in the recreation industry for 15+ years but obtaining a degree was a goal that I wanted to achieve. The flexibility of courses offered, in-class session structure, and the professors created a positive experience for me. I was able to receive a three-year degree in just 16 months. I am thankful for the opportunity and would recommend this program to anyone that is looking to upgrade their education. Thank you Brock University for the opportunity to working professionals.”

— **LAURA IANTOMASI**, Coordinator, Events & Community Engagement, City of Oshawa

“

The course scheduling made taking this program possible for busy working professionals to pursue their degree. The course professors structured the learning environment to build upon the work experience of the students. The curriculum advisor was extremely supportive in bridging the gap between working professionals and academic life.”

— **KAREN WINTER**, Manager of Programs & Services, City of Brantford

“

As a full-time working professional, my hopes of completing my university degree seemed out of reach due to both personal and professional commitments. This all changed when I discovered the Bachelor of Recreation and Leisure Studies Degree Pathway for Professionals offered through Brock University. This option of completing my degree provided me the opportunity to complete my Bachelor of Recreation and Leisure Studies in 16 months, with the flexibility to work at my own pace, reach my own goals, and continue to work full-time. The quality of this program, the professors, and the program coordinator were second to none in their delivery of course content, and in assisting me to reach my educational goals. The successful completion of the program has provided me with many opportunities for further professional development that would not have otherwise been achievable. I would recommend the Degree Pathway for Professionals to anyone who is looking to complete their degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies. Thank you Brock University for the wonderful experience.”

— **BRANDON CLARKSON**, Supervisor, Business and Customer Services, City of Oshawa






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