

Who is my academic adviser?

Meredith Chaney is the adviser for the Outdoor as well as the Commercial and Community options in the Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management major. She can be reached at mac178@psu or 814-865-1581 and her office is located in 701 Ford Building.

Professional Golf Management students are advised by PGM Faculty members.

Do I have to be a park ranger if I am in this major?

No. You can be a park ranger if you wish, but the major is incredibly broad and applies to many fields, settings and industries.

Can you get a job with this major?

Yes. The major has a comprehensive business focus and students develop strong leadership and event planning skills. This skill set can be applied to many industries, including but not limited to: resorts; sports facilities/arenas; cruise lines; event planning; corporate event planning; athletic events; regional, local and national parks; all aspects of the travel industry, etc.

I'm unsure about my career plans. What should I do?

A great campus resource is Penn State Career Services. They have drop-in counseling Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The center has comprehensive services including career/major exploration, resume and interview workshops, and career fair information.

Do I have to make an appointment to see my adviser?

Not necessarily. There are walk-in blocks of time on Mondays and Fridays, other times are by 30 minute appointment slots. Email or call to see what is available and will work best for you. mac178@psu.edu or 814-865-1851

What is a graduation plan?

A graduation plan is a detailed look and semester-by-semester layout of courses remaining to be completed in order to graduate. This can help you to see the timing of internships, to plan ahead for housing, and to be aware of courses that should be taken in a certain order.

I'm having trouble with one of my classes. What should I do?

Start with your instructor. Attend office hours and bring any material such as notes, homework, quizzes, and exams to go over with your instructor. He or she may have suggestions for other ways to study or tutors that may be helpful. Penn State also offers free tutoring through PSU Learning in 220 Boucke Building. <https://pennstatelearning.psu.edu/>

My parents want to talk to my advisor. Are they allowed to?

Our preference is to deal directly with students. We feel that as young adults, students should take responsibility and ownership of their education and related

questions and decisions.

If necessary, the advisor can give your parents general information about the major and courses but may not speak about you without your written consent. We have forms available at the office if you choose to do this.

I'm feeling overwhelmed with schoolwork and some personal issues. Who can I talk to?

Penn State has a counseling center on campus known as "CAPS," (Counseling and Psychological Services). It is located on the 5th Floor of the Student Health Center. Students can stop in or call 814-863-0395. Individual and group counseling sessions are available.

<https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/>

I want to start thinking about my internship, what should I do?

You can start by checking out our weekly "Friday Digest" emails. All new internships are listed. If you don't receive these and would like to, please email your request to lks163@psu.edu. There are also bulletin boards and binders in the RPTM Student Success Center on the 7th floor of Ford Building with internship information. Our staff assistant, Lori Coup, assists with internships and can also advise you on how to research what is available. Stop in the Center to see her or call or email: lks163@psu.edu and 814-865-1581. It is never too early to start thinking about your internship.

Why does RPTM require an extra semester and credits for internship?

Our 12-credit internship is not "extra" but is built into the 120 credits all Penn State students need to graduate. We feel the internship is a vital experience and opportunity for students to apply their skills in professional settings. Additionally, many students receive job offers to stay on as employees at their internship sites.

I earned a D in a C-required course in the major. Do I have to take it again?

Yes. RPTM students may petition to have one D accepted in the C required courses, but these are granted to students who have attempted the course unsuccessfully more than once and can demonstrate a compelling reason for this exception.