

Therapeutic Recreation Student Placements Resource for Students and Educational Institutions



Clinical placements are available to students pursuing a degree or diploma in therapeutic recreation from nationally or internationally accredited institutions.

If you are a student affiliated with a Canadian educational institution or agency, your request for a placement with Alberta Health Services (AHS) should originate from the institution or agency. See contact details at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/careers/page544.asp>. Requests will be considered within 6 months of the start date of the placement.

Once your request has been coordinated between your school and the AHS [Health Professions Strategy and Practice: Student Placement Team](#), we will work to match your learning goals and preferred clinical area of interest with an available preceptor.

For students planning future employment in Alberta after graduation, please review the requirements for professional membership with the Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA): <http://alberta-tr.org/pages/Students/Internship-Practicum.aspx>.

Students are responsible to ensure their preceptor qualifications and placement timelines meet their school, ATRA and/or NCTRC requirements needed for a valid placement and to meet future registration and certification requirements.

Full-time students from Alberta should consider applying for a student membership with the Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) in order to be eligible for student awards and scholarships <http://www.alberta-tr.org/pages/Students/AwardsScholarships.aspx>.

Learning opportunities:

- With supervision, the student will perform clinical duties to support client care, including therapeutic recreation assessment, intervention, program planning and education using appropriate therapeutic recreation modalities and techniques.
- The student will have the opportunity to participate in professional development, in-services, patient rounds, interprofessional team meetings and family meetings, as available.
- The student will have the opportunity to observe other health professions and other recreation therapists through the service continuum, as available.

Areas of specialization:

- Specialized areas include: neurological rehabilitation, adolescent mental health, adult or geriatric psychiatry, adult or adolescent forensic psychiatry, community-based mental health and day treatment, long term care, adult day programs, supportive living, community rehabilitation, urban or rural health.
- The student can expect to work with clients with varying mobility needs (wheelchair, walker, ambulatory, frail elderly, chronic pain); cognitive needs (i.e., memory, attention, dementia); emotional issues (i.e., sadness, grief) and/or mental health diagnoses (i.e., depression).

Skills and knowledge acquired throughout each placement:

- Communicating effectively and therapeutically in 1:1 and group situations.
- Working effectively and professionally in a multidisciplinary health team environment with complex clients and families.
- Knowledge of therapeutic recreation standards of practice, including assessment, treatment planning, program delivery, documentation, evaluation, research and community practice.
- Knowledge of medical terminology, medical diagnoses, medications and best practice in treatment of a variety of medical conditions.
- Knowledge of personal, functional and environmental barriers to leisure and strategies to address barriers with clients.
- Knowledge of community resources, programs and facilities that are used for intervention and community integration.
- Clinical judgement, independence, initiative and flexibility to practice within a dynamic and complex health care environment.

Student Requirements:

- Current CPR certification.
- Criminal records check within the past 6 months of the start date of the placement.
- Proof of vaccination history.
- The student may be required to participate in activities and environments requiring good physical and mental health, above average strength and stamina. Environments may include gyms, fitness facilities, outdoor settings, aquatic facilities, libraries, community centres and public transit.
- Students are responsible for any costs incurred such as housing, parking, transportation, insurance, equipment and facility fees.