The Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies was founded on July 1, 1946 and has been a distinct department since its inception. It is housed in the School of Public Health-Bloomington (formerly the HPER), which also contains the academic departments of Applied Health Science, Kinesiology, Environmental Health, and Epidemiology and Biostatics, as well as the Division of Recreational Sports. The Department operates a separate budget and is administered by a Chair and administrative staff similar to other departments within the school and university.

The Department offers specializations in:

- Public, Nonprofit, and Community Recreation
- Tourism, Hospitality, and Event Management
- Recreational Therapy
- Recreational Sport Management
- Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Human Ecology

There are over 300 undergraduates and over 80 graduate students, with 30 doctoral programs in the department. The Department works closely with local, state and national agencies in cooperative research, education, and internship opportunities. The Department has a variety of external activities and initiatives, including Bradford Woods, the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands, and the Leisure Research Institute.

**Mission**

In keeping with the missions of the University and School, the mission of the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Studies is as follows:

“We provide global academic leadership and excellence through teaching, research, service and scholarship in outdoor and resource management, recreation, and tourism management. We accomplish this through a humanistic approach to utilizing innovation, collaboration, and application of technology. Our scholarship affects students, colleagues, professionals, and citizens in local, national, and global societies.”

Indiana University's Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Studies serves as a leader in the development of curriculum that addresses the research and professional needs of the recreation, park resources, and leisure services profession. Adherence to those needs occurs through active involvement in professional
organizations and the support of the missions of the American Association of Leisure and Recreation and the society of Park and Recreation Educators.