

Part-Time Post-Graduate Therapeutic Recreation Program Offered in Partnership with Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *Why is the program being offered part-time in Toronto*

Georgian College has offered their one-year Post-Graduate Therapeutic Recreation (T.R.) Program in Orillia for over 25 years. Over the last several years, Georgian College has entered in to partnership agreements with Baycrest Centre in Toronto, St. Joseph's Health Care in London, the Royal Ottawa Hospital and Providence Continuing Care Centre in Eastern Ontario, and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre to offer part-time academic upgrading primarily for practitioners in those regions working in the field. After a very successful cohort began at Sunnybrook in the fall of 2008, we have extended our agreement with that facility to continue to offer our program in partnership with them.

2. *Why has Georgian partnered with Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre?*

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre has long been a leader in the field of therapeutic recreation in the province of Ontario and across Canada. Georgian has enjoyed a strong relationship with the Sunnybrook Recreation Therapy team for many years through Internship opportunities, facility tours, and the hiring of many of our graduates. Sunnybrook has exceptional facilities, a strong commitment to education, training, and research, and unique T.R. opportunities that will benefit the students in our part-time program.

3. *What are the entrance requirements for this partnership program?*

The educational entrance requirements are the same as they are for the full-time program offered in Orillia. That is, applicants must have a degree or a diploma in a health or human-service related field from an accredited college or university. Many employers are now looking to hire T.R. practitioners with a degree in conjunction with our program, although depending upon your career interests, a diploma plus our program may also meet agency hiring criteria. Additionally, applicants will be evaluated on their experience, paid or volunteer, in T.R. or a related field. Please contact the Program Coordinator if you have questions about entrance and hiring criteria.

4. *How many courses are offered at one time?*

Generally, two courses are offered each semester (fall, winter, and summer). There are some semesters where additional courses or two are offered depending upon need (see Program Tracking Sheet for details).

5. *Are all the courses offered within a classroom format?*

No, typically each semester has one course offered through a combination of traditional classroom format and on-line delivery ("blended course"), and the other course is offered entirely on-line, utilizing "Blackboard", the College's web-based classroom.

6. *When are the courses offered?*

The blended courses involve between three and six face to face weekend meetings per semester. Each blended course involves a maximum commitment of three weekends (for example, in a course requiring five face to face meetings, these would take place over a total of three weekends – two Saturday / Sunday combinations, and a single Saturday). The remainder of the course work is done on-line. The requirements for the on-line courses are completed at the student's convenience, within parameters set by the instructor.

7. *Where are the classroom courses offered? Is it accessible by public transportation? Will I have to pay for parking?*

The classroom courses are offered at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, located at 2075 Bayview Avenue in Toronto. The TTC goes right to the Sunnybrook Campus. Paid parking is available at a reduced rate if a parking pass is purchased. There are different options available for this, which will be explained when you enrol in the program. To cut down on costs, some students may choose to car pool as well.

8. *What are the computer requirements for the on-line courses?*

The minimum requirements for a computer are: 486 with 8mb of ram, Windows 95/98 or 2000 or a comparable Macintosh system, 28.8 modem and Internet access. The use of high speed Internet is *highly* recommended, but not mandatory.

9. *Do I have to take every course in the program?*

If you want to graduate from the program and obtain the Ontario College Graduate Certificate in Therapeutic Recreation, you need to successfully complete each of the academic courses plus the Internship. If you are interested in taking selected courses, you may be able to do that, space permitting, and provided you meet the eligibility requirements for entrance to the program. Please note, however, that some courses have prerequisites and students who are enrolled in the full program have priority.

10. *How do I apply to the program?*

Individuals who wish to apply for the full program or take selected courses within the program should follow the instructions in the "Part-time Therapeutic Recreation Program Application Information" document. The process involves completing an application form, paying a \$25.00 application fee, and submitting an up to date resume and covering letter, along with an official transcript from your previous post-secondary education.

11. *How many students take each course?*

Typically, a maximum of 30 students will be registered in each course; however, a minimum number of students must be registered for each course in order for it to be offered.

12. *Will this be an ongoing part-time program offering?*

Initially, Georgian was planning on offering each of the courses in this format one time only through this partnership with Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Due to the success of this partnership and the ongoing interest in professional development opportunities, we have extended this partnership to allow for more intakes in the fall of 2010 and the winter, spring and fall of 2011.

13. *How long will it take me to complete the full program?*

For those students who begin in the fall of 2010, and take each of the courses when they are scheduled, you would be finished the coursework in two calendar years. Following that, you would need to register and pay for the Internship portion of the program. For those that start after the fall of 2010, the date of completion depends on how many courses the student takes each semester (see Part-Time Program Outline and Part-time Program Tracking Sheet for details of when courses are offered).

14. *How long can I take to complete the program?*

Normally, students must complete the requirements for this program in two years, however, we have been able to negotiate some changes to that for this unique part-time offering. Students must register in a minimum of one course in two out of the three academic semesters each year in order to be able to take longer to complete the program requirements. If significant curriculum changes occur, however, during this extended program completion time, students may need to take additional course(s) to meet the new graduation requirements. Note that significant changes to the program curriculum are being planned for the fall of 2013, so part-time students are strongly encouraged to finish all course-work by then to avoid having to take additional courses.

15. *Who teaches the courses?*

Some courses are taught by full-time Georgian College faculty, while other courses are taught by practitioners in the field who have been selected by the college for their subject expertise.

16. *What is the cost per course?*

The government sets the course fee, which is presently \$299.04 per course (plus text book costs). The Internship, since it is considered a full-time semester, carries full-time tuition fees, which will be *approximately* \$1,943.35.

17. *Due to my previous education or work experience, would I be eligible for any exemptions?*

Because this is a post-graduate program, exemptions based on courses taken as part of your degree or diploma that you use for entrance in to the program can not be granted as this is essentially “double-dipping”. The college does, however, recognize knowledge and skills gained through life or work experiences through our Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process. To successfully complete a PLAR, students must demonstrate that they have met the learning outcomes of a particular course, typically through writing a comprehensive exam and/or submitting a portfolio. There is a fee levied by the college for this process. What we typically find within the T.R. Program is that because our courses are so T.R.-focused, students benefit from taking each of the courses within the program.

18. *What is the graduate employment rate?*

Our graduate employment rate is consistently excellent for our full-time program, typically with between 85 to 100% working in a related position within six months of finishing the program.

19. *Can I use courses from this program towards Registration with TRO (R/TRO), certification with NCTRC (CTRS designation) or to meet the MDS-RAI coding criteria?*

Most of the courses within the program will count towards these designations; however each of these has certain requirements / restrictions. Please contact the Program Coordinator to have your specific questions answered regarding these criterion.

20. *With a college diploma in addition to this program, will I be as marketable as I would be with a university degree in conjunction with this program?*

In many settings, the answer is "yes", but in some settings, you will not be eligible for Recreation Therapist positions unless you possess a university degree. Many of these organizations have "Recreation Therapy Assistant" positions that you would be qualified for, however. As the profession of therapeutic recreation continues to evolve and develop, hiring requirements change to keep up with these trends. This means increased credentials at many organizations. If you have questions about your employability after completing the program, please contact the Program Coordinator.

20. *Can I complete my Internship at my place of employment?*

Yes, if you work in the Therapeutic Recreation field. If you are not presently working in the field, the college will work with you to help you set up a suitable Internship opportunity. Throughout your Internship, Georgian College staff support will be provided to ensure that all competencies are completed satisfactorily and to offer guidance to you and your Internship agency.

21. *Would I be eligible for OSAP through this partnership?*

No, since it is a part-time offering, you would not meet OSAP eligibility for individual courses. You may, however, be entitled to OSAP funds for the Internship portion of the program.

22. *What if I have further questions about this partnership program?*

Contact the Part-Time Program Coordinator, Jessica Ariss by email at jariss@georgianc.on.ca. If necessary, a phone conversation can be scheduled.