

The Revamped Public Lands and Recreation Administration Program

Public Lands & Recreation Administration (PLRA) is the public and nonprofit administration of agencies and organizations that use public lands and recreation programs and services as tools to achieve individual, community, environmental, and economic outcomes. The PLRA program is an innovative course of study that prepares students to work in a variety of settings such as Indiana DNR, Terre Haute Parks and Recreation, and the National Recreation and Park Association.

Public lands include parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and many more. This program produces leaders across Indiana to work in park systems and public land management agencies. Our graduates go on to substantial leadership roles in public lands and recreation systems.

Students in this program will:

- Identify historical events, key people and organizations, and impactful public policies that influence the development of public lands and associated management
- Compare and contrast various missions and outdoor recreation management strategies
- Explain how outdoor recreation fits within the mission of public land and management agencies
- Evaluate nonprofit master plans, comprehensive plans, and strategic plans
- Identify current issues, challenges, and trends facing public land management
- Apply principles of volunteer engagement to maximize volunteer involvement and mission impact
- Research and contribute to the planning, implementation, leadership, and evaluation of culturally competent, equitable, inclusive, and accessible programs
- Engage respectfully with individuals and groups that may have diverse perspectives and priorities regarding recreation opportunities, and facilitate understanding and conflict resolution
- Make nature-based tourism, recreation, and outdoor leadership decisions within applicable laws, policies, and regulations

Students interested in learning more or signing up for classes should e-mail Dr. Schaumleffel (nathan.schaumleffel@indstate.edu) for an academic advisement appointment. Dr. Schaumleffel is the Program Coordinator and Academic Advisor for all PLRA and Nonprofit Leadership programs.

Interested but needing scholarship funding to apply, try applying for the Udall Foundation Scholarship at: <https://www.udall.gov/ourprograms/scholarship/scholarship.aspx>

Links to learn more:

1. Public Lands and Recreation Administration Program:

<https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.indstate.edu%2Fcas%2Fpolisci%2Fundergraduate-programs%2Fpublic-lands-recreation-administration&data=05%7C01%7Cctompson74%40sycamores.indstate.edu%7C6903d08c24ad4009ef0208dbc42149f6%7C3eeabe396b1c4f95ae682fab18085f8d%7C0%7C0%7C638319419536710292%7CUnk>

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2. On-Campus Public Lands and Recreation Administration Minor

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3. Online Public Lands and Recreation Administration Certificate

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4. Online Master of Public Administration with Nonprofit Management Concentration

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