

RPLS Department Policies

Applicable to all course syllabi in the department

Communication and Language

- Knowing how to communicate effectively with all members of a community is a crucial skill for those in recreation and leisure studies. The use of certain words or phrases can express gender, ethnic, or racial bias, either intentionally or unintentionally. The same is true of language referring to persons with disabilities, which in many instances can perpetuate negative stereotypes and disparaging attitudes. The Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department's commitment to cultural competence supports the removal of bias in language against persons on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, racial or ethnic group, disability, or age within written classroom assignments, presentations, lectures, and everyday interactions. The Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department chooses to convey respect through language that is accurate, positive, and inclusive. This practice is consistent with the American Psychological Association Publication Manual's guidelines for reducing bias in language.

Sustainability

- In the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department, we believe in the necessity of environmental responsibility. Respect and care for the natural environment is embedded in our department's history. As best as possible, we promote and practice sustainability for the world as we use resources for teaching, scholarship, service, and personal use. As we model and advocate for environmental stewardship, our goal is to move students to internalize stewardship of community and global resources and carry it into their own professional and personal lives.

Use of Electronic Communication Devices in RPLS Classes

- As a member of the college community, each student has a responsibility to other students who are members of the classroom community. Because of their disruptive nature, the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department prohibits the use by students of cell phones, PDAs, or similar communication devices during scheduled classes. All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent mode and should not be taken out during class. Variations and exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor. Specific procedures for implementation and sanctions for violation of this policy are determined by the instructor. Use of cell phones, similar communication devices, or any unauthorized electronic data storage device in testing situations, other than to receive College emergency notifications, may constitute a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy and lead to sanctions under the 340.02 Violation of Academic Integrity Policy.

ONLY for courses that require background checks (REC 280, 293, 380, 431, 435 and 470):

Student Background Checks

- **Policy Statement:** Students in certain SUNY Cortland Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies (RPLS) Department courses will complete a background check by TLC²/Southeastern Security Consultants, Inc. (SSCI) as required by the instructors of designated service learning courses. As long as no changes have occurred in students' statuses, they do not need to repeat the process each year that they are enrolled in one of these designated service learning courses. Students who have previously completed a background check that required fingerprinting will be allowed to use that screening to meet the RPLS Department's requirement as long as the original screening was completed in the last year, results are presented to the RPLS Department, and there have been no changes in the student's status since the background check occurred.
- **Obligation of Continuing Notification:** It is the responsibility of the student in any RPLS major to notify the RPLS Department Chairperson immediately if any changes occur in his or her status as documented by the background check prior to graduation. If the student does not disclose any change in status in a timely manner, the student may be dismissed from the major.
- **Pending Charges:** Anyone who has been charged for any of the disqualifying offenses or for cases pending in court will not be permitted to volunteer until the official adjudication of the case.
- **Criteria for Exclusion:** RPLS Department will abide by the TLC² guidelines for background screening which may disqualify and prohibit students from completing volunteer or fieldwork hours. *Criteria for Exclusion* can be found in the RPLS Department's Advisement Manual. Students who wish to appeal the findings of their background checks must do so directly with SSCI.