

**New York State Department of Civil Service**  
DIVISION OF CLASSIFICATION & COMPENSATION

Classification Standard

**Occ. Code 5903200**

<b>Recreation Therapist, Grade 14</b>	<b>5903200</b>
<b>Senior Recreation Therapist, Grade 17</b>	<b>5903300</b>
<b>Head Recreation Therapist, Grade 20</b>	<b>5903600</b>
<b>Chief Recreation Therapist, Grade 23</b>	<b>5903700</b>

Brief Description of Class Series

Recreation Therapists provide a variety of therapeutic and rehabilitative recreation services to individuals\* to treat, develop, or maintain individuals' physical, mental, and social well-being, and to reduce or eliminate the effects of illness or disability. Incumbents plan, develop, and implement recreation activities and programs, including, but not limited to sports, exercise, dance, drama, music, art, and social activities.

Positions are classified in various State agencies.

\*Individual refers to a person who is being treated or cared for, and is used in place of patient, client, or other nomenclature specific to an agency.

Distinguishing Characteristics

*Recreation Therapist:* entry level; under the supervision of a Senior Recreation Therapist or higher-level recreation therapist, provides a variety of recreation therapy services and activities to individuals.

*Senior Recreation Therapist:* full performance level; under the supervision of a Head or Chief Recreation Therapist, independently develops, implements, and delivers recreation therapy services to individuals; and may supervise Recreation Therapists and other staff in the development and delivery of recreation therapy services.

*Head Recreation Therapist:* supervisory level; oversees and directs a recreation therapy program with four or more professional recreation therapy staff; and plans, develops, implements, and evaluates recreation services, policies, and procedures.

*Chief Recreation Therapist:* supervisory level; oversees and directs a recreation therapy program with 20 or more recreation therapy staff; and plans, develops, implements, and evaluates recreation therapy services, policies, and procedures.

## Related Classes

Occupational Therapists are licensed rehabilitation care professionals who provide a variety of occupational therapy services to individuals in accordance with Article 156 of the Education Law to assist individuals restore, develop, or maintain adaptive skills, performance abilities, and/or physical, cognitive, and mental functioning in performing tasks and activities of daily living.

Physical Therapists are licensed health care practitioners who assist in, provide, and/or supervise the delivery of physical therapy treatment programs and services to individuals in accordance with Article 136 of the Education Law to assist individuals restore, maintain, and improve physical movement and function, and limit or prevent disabilities resulting from disease or injury.

## Illustrative Tasks

### *Recreation Therapist*

Assists higher-level recreation therapists in the development, implementation, and evaluation of recreation therapy programs for individuals and groups.

- Provides a variety of recreation services to individuals and groups, and modifies activities consistent with the function level, physical ability, and/or rehabilitative and clinical needs of individuals.
- Observes and records individuals' participation, progress, responses, and behaviors; reports changes; and may recommend changes to treatment plans or new activities to address the recreation needs of individuals and/or groups.
- Coordinates recreation therapy activities with those of other disciplines or therapy programs for assigned individuals and/or groups.
- Maintains individuals' records and documentation in accordance with program standards and requirements.
- Orders and maintains recreation supplies and equipment for assigned activities.
- Attends recreation department and/or treatment team meetings.

### *Senior Recreation Therapist*

Performs the tasks and activities of a Recreation Therapist above and independently designs and administers individual and group therapeutic recreation programs.

Oversees the delivery and performance of recreation activities, makes modifications where necessary, and ensures compliance with recreation department policies and procedures.

Participates in the development, implementation, and evaluation of recreation therapy policies and procedures; and recommends changes to programming, policies, and treatment plans to improve the quality of recreation services.

May supervise lower-level recreation therapy staff engaged in the design, development, and/or delivery of recreation therapy services.

#### *Head and Chief Recreation Therapist*

In addition to performing any of the above tasks, Head and Chief Recreation Therapists perform the full range of supervisory duties for subordinate recreation therapy staff; plan, develop, implement, and evaluate recreation therapy programs and services; and establish and maintain performance standards.

#### Minimum Qualifications

##### *Recreation Therapist*

Open Competitive: a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation or closely related field and one year of post-degree professional experience in planning and administering a therapeutic program which involved developing and coordinating therapeutic activities for a geriatric population, or individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, mental illness, physical disabilities, addiction, or substance use disorders.

##### *Senior Recreation Therapist*

Promotion: one year of service as a Recreation Therapist (including parenthetics).

Open Competitive: a bachelor's degree and two years of post-degree professional experience as described above for Recreation Therapist.

Substitutions: licensure and current registration as a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist in New York State; certification as a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification; registration as an Art Therapist with the American Art Therapy Association (AATA); registration as a Dance/Movement Therapist with the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA); certification as a Music Therapist by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT); and registration as a Registered Drama Therapist with the North American Drama Therapy Association substitute for one year of post-degree professional experience required in the above open competitive minimum qualifications for Recreation Therapist and Senior Recreation Therapist.

*Head Recreation Therapist*

Promotion: one year of service as a Senior Recreation Therapist (including parenthetics).

*Chief Recreation Therapist*

Promotion: one year of service as a Head Recreation Therapist.

Attachment

**Note:** Classification Standards illustrate the nature, extent, and scope of duties and responsibilities of the classes they describe. Standards cannot and do not include all of the work that might be appropriately performed by a class. The minimum qualifications above are those which were required for appointment at the time the Classification Standard was written. Please contact the Division of Staffing Services for current information on minimum qualification requirements for appointment or examination.

Date: 3/2021

BLR

## Parenthetics Attachment

*Recreation Therapists (Art, Dance, Music):* specialize in art, dance, and music recreation therapies; and primarily provide recreation services and activities to individuals and groups within their designated specialty.

## Minimum Qualifications

### *Recreation Therapist (Art)*

Open Competitive: a bachelor's degree in art therapy, creative arts therapy with a concentration in art, art, art education, or fine arts; and one year of post-degree professional experience in planning and administering an art therapy program; or registration as an Art Therapist with the AATA.

### *Recreation Therapist (Dance)*

Open Competitive: a bachelor's degree in dance therapy, creative arts therapy with a concentration in dance, dance, or dance education; and one year of post-degree professional experience in planning and administering a dance therapy program; or registration as a Dance/Movement Therapist with the ADTA.

### *Recreation Therapist (Music)*

Open Competitive: a bachelor's degree in music therapy, creative arts therapy with a concentration in music, music, or music education; and one year of post-degree professional experience in planning and administering a music therapy program; or certification as a Music Therapist by the CBMT.

### *Senior Recreation Therapist (Music)*

Promotion: one year of service as a Recreation Therapist (Music).