



National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification®

Protecting and Promoting Since 1981

Memorandum

To: President Casamento and the Board of Trustees, Utica University

From: Anne Richard, Executive Director; National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC)

Date: February 7, 2023

Established in 1981 and recognized by Joint Commission, CARF, and CMS, the NCTRC is the only international organization dedicated to professional excellence and protection of the consumer of therapeutic recreation services through the certification of qualified recreational therapy providers.

While it is not the policy of NCTRC to endorse any product, program, or service, I am able to say that for many years, transcripts of applicants applying to NCTRC for Professional Eligibility (the first step in becoming a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist) have indicated that the student completed their necessary coursework through the Therapeutic Recreation major at Utica University.

While the profession of therapeutic recreation is relatively small in comparison to some of the other helping professions, it has experienced continued and steady growth over the years. There are currently over 19,000 individuals who hold active, inactive, and eligible for re-entry status as a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) through NCTRC, with 930 of those individuals either residing in or practicing in New York state. It should also be noted that the New York state recreational therapy licensure committee has renewed its efforts to pursue regulation of recreational therapy practice in New York. The proposed legislation uses the CTRS credential as a requirement for a license to practice recreational therapy within the state.

As noted above, the role of NCTRC within the therapeutic recreation profession is in protecting the consumers of RT services. Every practitioner who holds the CTRS credential has met the requirements related to academic coursework, professional experience, and passed the national exam. Without access to therapeutic recreation coursework, such as what is available within the TR program at Utica University, many students will have a difficult time completing the requirements to safely provide services or enter the profession.