In summary...

- There are 30,000 therapeutic recreation professionals in the U.S. and Canada.
- 12,000 CTRSs in the U.S. and Canada.
- 1,000 new applications for certification each year.
- 70% of CTRSs are employed full time with the title of “therapist” or “therapist/supervisor.”
- CTRSs work with a wide spectrum of client populations within a diversity of service settings.
- Statistics based on 2009 CTRS Study.

Who is a CTRS?

A Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) has acquired a body of knowledge that includes theory, philosophy, and practice, that spans a wide range of disabling physical and mental conditions. When that knowledge is applied, the CTRS addresses the total person and the associative life factors that may apply to a client’s specific disability or illness. Professional recognition is granted by NCTRC to individuals who apply and meet established standards for certification which include education, experience, and continuing professional development. The Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist credential is awarded after those specific qualifications have been met and the candidate has successfully completed the international computer-based certification exam.

What is RT?

Recreation therapy, also known as therapeutic recreation, is a systematic process that utilizes recreation and other activity-based interventions based upon the assessed needs of individuals with illnesses and/or disabling conditions. The purpose of the RT process is to improve or maintain physical, cognitive, social, emotional and spiritual functioning in order to facilitate full participation in life.

Statistics based on 2009 CTRS Study.

- Gender
  - Male: 14%
  - Female: 86%

- Current Position in RT/RT
  - Therapist: 47%
  - Supervisor: 9%
  - Leader/Programmer: 6%
  - Administrator: 24%
  - Therapist/Supervisor: 10%
  - Consultant (2%)
  - Ed/Researcher (1%)

- Current Employment Status
  - Full-time: 65%
  - FT/PT in RT/RT: 11%
  - FT Educator: 7%
  - Part-time in RT/RT: 7%
  - Do not work in RT/RT: 6%
  - Not employed: 5%
  - Retired: 3%

- Total Years Working in RT/TR
  - Less than 2 years: 7%
  - 2-5 years: 14%
  - 6-10 years: 10%
  - 11-15 years: 18%
  - 16-20 years: 13%
  - 21 or more years: 30%

- Total Years Working in RT/TR
  - 65% Full-time
  - 30% Part-time
  - 5% Do not work

- What is NCTRC?

NCTRC: Dedicated to Professional Excellence

Established in 1981, the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) is a non-profit, national organization dedicated to professional excellence for the protection of consumers through the certification of recreation therapists. Professional recognition is granted by NCTRC to individuals who apply and meet established standards for certification, including education, experience, exam, and continuing professional development. The Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) credential is offered to qualified individuals based on those stringent requirements.

NCTRC is dedicated to improving the quality of human service and health care standards and maintains a relationship with the Joint Commission and the Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). NCTRC provides credential verification services to employers and health care agencies. These services are strongly encouraged by NCTRC to monitor personnel adherence to the standards of the Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist.

NCTRC is a charter member organization of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA). NCTRC is accredited by the National Commission for Certification Agencies (NCCA).

For more information about NCTRC and to review current certification standards refer to our website at: www.NCTRC.org

NCTRC does not guarantee or assume the provision of competent services by CTRS, nor is NCTRC liable to recognize the services of a CTRS who has not met the basic requirements for the credential.

Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists®

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