

Activities Professional

Contact Info.

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What are activities professionals?

Activities professionals provide elderly and disabled clients opportunities to support and enhance their social, mental, creative, spiritual and recreational needs. They do this by planning and implementing programs which focus on these needs and allow the individuals to have a better quality of life.

What do activities professionals do?

Activities professionals work with mainly the elderly population. They plan and implement activities programs for residents that enhance their quality of life. Activities include everything from field trips, games, exercise and crafts to videos, dancing and scrapbooking.

Where do activities professionals work?

Activities professionals work in long-term care nursing homes, swing bed or subacute units, retirement homes, assisted living centers, boarding homes, adult daycare centers, and senior centers.

Points of Pride

- The Casper College Activities Professional program is approved by the Wyoming Department of Health, Health Facilities program, the National Association of Activity Professionals (NAAP) and the National Certification Council for Activity Professionals (NCCAP). In addition to being state approved, our programs meet federal requirements regarding who is eligible to direct activities programs.
- Casper College is very happy to offer all activity professional courses at a distance. Our instructor teaches from an on-site classroom in Casper which transmits via compressed video over the WEN network to the whole state. So, no matter where you live in Wyoming, you can take APRO classes.
- Casper College has the only Activities Professional program in the State of Wyoming.



Activities Professional

How do I prepare to be an activities professional?

Depending on the position, you may not need a degree. In Wyoming, the minimum requirement for working as an activities professional is completion of the state approved courses which are APRO 1010, 1050, 1970 and 1971. However, we also offer a certificate or an associate's degree. See below for details on these three options.

How much are activities professionals paid?

According to a 2005 National Association of Activity Professionals survey, activity professionals can make between \$10 and \$19 per hour. Wages are dependent upon facilities so this is just an estimate. Additionally, like all wages, these have likely increased since that time.

Where can I learn more about the profession?

Visit the website of the National Association of Activity Professionals at www.thenaap.com.



Curriculum: Activities Professional

Options for studying to become an Activities Professional

State-Approved Training Course

You may register as a nondegree student and take the following four basic classes that comprise the Wyoming State Approved Training Course. This allows you to meet the minimum requirement to work as an activities professional in Wyoming.

• Basic classes:

- Activities Professionals I
- Activities Professionals: Practicum I
- Activities Professional II
- Activities Professionals: Practicum II

Certificate

A certificate prepares students for employment as activities professionals in long-term care institutions.

- To receive a certificate, students will complete:
 - The four basic classes above.

- Advanced classes
 - Advanced Management I
 - Advanced Management Practicum I
 - Advanced Management II
 - Advanced Management Practicum II
- 15.33 additional credits from outside the department (See college catalog or website for specific listings).

Associate of Applied Science Degree

The AAS degree program provides training for students desiring employment as activities professionals, activities directors and managers.

- To receive an A.A.S degree, students will complete:

- The four basic classes above
- The four advanced classes above
- General education courses:
 - At least 32 additional credits of general education coursework. (See college catalog or website for details).