

RECREATION LEADER (THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision, incumbents of this class are responsible for providing a scheduled program of therapeutic recreational activities for an assigned group of patients for the purpose of effecting improvements in their physical, emotional and social well-being. Work involves discussing patient responsiveness and progress in therapeutic activities to nurses and attending physicians, and attending rounds to discuss patients progress and needs. This class differs from the Recreational Therapist in that the latter is at a higher, professional performance level requiring higher level academic training and involving more independent planning, development and implementation of patient activities. Supervision is not a requirement of this job. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Assumes direct responsibility for the welfare of all assigned patients;

Conducts therapeutic activities such as sports, arts, crafts, social activities, trips, games, group discussions and special programs in accordance with patients' needs, capabilities and interests;

Adapts therapeutic activities and equipment to facilitate patient participation, as needed;

Participates in the development of a treatment plan for patients, based upon comprehensive assessments developed with treatment team; prepares recommendations regarding the therapeutic activity portion of the treatment plan; and evaluates this portion on a regular basis and revises treatment plan when indicated;

Documents recreation therapy assessments, treatment plan, and progress notes in the patients' charts;

Posts up-to date schedule of therapeutic activities for each day of the week in a conspicuous area in the Unit for patient information;

Informs patients and Unit staff of special activities, or off-ground trips, by announcements, flyers, and participation in meetings;

Attends and participate in rounds, staff meetings and seminars for the purpose of continuously updating professional knowledge and enhancing program effectiveness;

Orders, stores and issues recreation equipment and maintains daily activities area;

Performs related duties and other departmental tasks as may be assigned by Department Head or Recreation Therapy Supervisor.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Good knowledge of the theory and methods used in therapeutic activity programs; expertise in one of the specialized recreational activities such as creative arts therapy, leisure counseling, rehabilitation counseling, etc.; ability to establish and maintain effective relationships with patients in order to stimulate their interest in recreational activities; ability to develop and implement recreational service programs to motivate patient's participation; ability to work effectively with individuals and groups; ability to prepare and maintain accurate and appropriate records and reports; sound judgment; creativity; flexibility; tact; resourcefulness; initiative; integrity; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Possession of a high school or equivalency diploma and either (a) a Bachelor's Degree* or a Master's Degree* in Therapeutic Recreation, or Recreation with an option in Therapeutic Recreation; or (b) a Bachelor's Degree* and two years experience providing therapeutic recreational activities to psychiatric, pediatric, geriatric or disabled patients or clients in a clinical, residential or community based program; or (c) four years experience as stated in (b).

SUBSTITUTION: 30 credits* towards a degree at a recognized college or university with major course work in Recreation, Recreation Education, Leisure Recreation, Leisure Education, Physical Education, Music Therapy, Dance Therapy, Art Therapy, Psychology or related discipline may be substituted for each year of the above stated required experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Possession of a valid license to operate a motor vehicle in the State of New York.

*SPECIAL NOTE: Education beyond the secondary level must be from an institution recognized or accredited by the Board of Regents of the New York State Education Department as a post-secondary, degree-granting institution.