



APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
University Recreation (UREC)
Graduate Assistant of Aquatics & Risk Management

Appalachian State University invites interested applicants for the position of **Graduate Assistant (GA) of Aquatics & Risk Management** to become a part of the University Recreation (UREC) team as we facilitate a welcoming environment where recreation and wellness opportunities transform, engage, and care for the App State community.

The **Graduate Assistant (GA) of Aquatics & Risk Management** is primarily responsible for working with the Assistant Director of Aquatics & Risk Management to assist in the day-to-day supervision and operations of the UREC Pool services and programs at the Student Recreation Center.

This position serves on the UREC Leadership Team and reports directly to the Assistant Director of Aquatics & Risk Management.

You will succeed in this position if you are committed to

- Be available to work in a flexible schedule that requires some evenings, weekends, and designated holidays.
- Be creative and innovative to design new training opportunities for student staff.
- Facilitate and nurture a team environment.
- Provide development and support to students through direction, constructive feedback, and hands-on learning opportunities.
- Build genuine connections between students to promote engaged communities.
- Leading multiple groups of students with multiple projects all happening simultaneously.
- Receive and provide constructive feedback with a growth mindset.

Who we are

You will join a team that is creating an exciting environment, values collaboration, innovation, and is welcoming to all App State students, faculty and staff. We are creating a risk-taking workplace that supports the voices and contributions of employees at all levels, listens, and responds to our community. At UREC we believe in opportunities for everyone, with everyone. Learn more about UREC at this [link](#).

You will have the opportunity to

Programs & Facilities Operations

- Coordinate and co-lead with Assistant Director the mentorship, recruitment, hiring, training, supervision, and evaluation of student staff of 40-50 student Lifeguards and student Program Managers.
- Design, coordinate and implement comprehensive.
- Manage the scheduling for student staff to ensure adequate staff coverage for daily shifts and events. Monitor lifeguard shift trades and approve requests for time off.
- Assist to maintain routine and daily pool maintenance including pool chemistry records.
- Review with the GA of Facilities & Operations the pool schedule on daily basis.
- Maintain equipment inventory of facility and educational supplies.

UREC - Graduate Assistant of Aquatics & Risk Management

- Collaborate to design and implement Aquatics outreach strategies to intentionally design programs with everyone in mind.

Risk Management

- Continually monitor, evaluate, and review Risk Management and Standard Operational Procedures regarding the pool area.
- Coordinate and co-lead with Assistant Director the implementation of the First Aid, CPR/AED certification program to all UREC staff.
- Plan and monitor the UREC response to emergency individual audits for UREC staff. Keep and maintain UREC certifications and audits log.

Student Development

- Design, coordinate, and lead training opportunities that focus on the growth and development of student self-awareness, risk management, leadership, and employability skill sets.
- Collaborate to develop and maintain a Lifeguard Training Program to educate new and existing student staff members.
- Teach CPR, AED, and First Aid classes for University Recreation Student Staff and App State community participants.
- Facilitate and develop a culture of care and learning environment that contributes to building a sense of belonging that supports UREC's mission, vision, and values.
- Hold self, students, and staff members accountable to departmental expectations of creating a welcoming environment at UREC.
- Maintain sensitivity to different perspectives and identities.

Leadership and Support

- Participate and actively engage in the UREC Leadership Team initiatives by modeling UREC mission and vision.
- Contribute to department-wide initiatives and opportunities through participation in committees, work teams, and tasks to contribute to the mission of UREC.

At a minimum, you should have

- At least one year of experience working as a Lifeguard in a recreation facility.
- Current certifications requirements
 - Lifeguard by the American Red Cross
 - American Red Cross CPR, AED, and First Aid Instructor certification (or willingness to become certified in the first three months of employment).
- Academic requirements:
 - Unconditionally accepted into a Graduate School Program or working toward the completion of a Master's Degree at Appalachian State University.
 - Maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.

The preferred candidate will have

- Preferred current certifications:
 - Lifeguarding Instructor certification by American Red Cross
 - Water Safety Instructor certification by American Red Cross
- Previous working experience in a collegiate recreation setting.
- Knowledge and experience in training and supervision of employees.

Hours

The Graduate Assistant will work on average 20 hours per week during the fall and spring academic semesters. Because of the work with students and events, there will be night and weekend work frequently.

Salary and Benefits

- Up to \$9,000 between the fall and spring academic semesters (\$12.00/hr.)
- In-state tuition scholarship: Amount is equally divided among the fall and spring academic semesters (final amount will be equal to approved in-state tuition and determined by Student Affairs)
- Professional Development Funds: \$300.00
- Parking Pass: \$360.00

How to apply

Contact Melissa Williamson, Assistant Director of Aquatics & Risk Management, at williamsonma2@appstate.edu with the following materials:

1. Current Resume
2. Statement of interest which includes reference to the minimum qualifications
3. List of at least three professional references
4. Copies of all related certifications

Deadline to submit applications is January 16, 2026. Position is open until filled.
This position is anticipated to start on August 1, 2026.

Please be aware that offers for assistantship positions are contingent upon acceptance into the University Graduate School and the specific [degree program](#) you are applying for. [Varying deadlines](#) exist for all applications, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to be aware of these and apply accordingly. Applicants MUST be accepted into the [Graduate School](#) before they can be accepted into the degree program of their choice. Please also see more information about the [Exam Waiver](#).

Some commonly related graduate programs with the offered graduate assistantship:

- [Master of Arts in Student Affairs Administration \(SAA\)](#)
- [Master of Arts in Higher Education](#)
- [Master of Science in Exercise Science](#)
- [Master of Public Administration](#)
- [Master of Business Administration](#)

More about App State University: As the premier public undergraduate institution in the state of North Carolina, Appalachian State University prepares students to lead purposeful lives as global citizens who understand and engage their responsibilities in creating a sustainable future for all. Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Appalachian is one of 17 campuses in the University of North Carolina System. Appalachian enrolls more than 20,000 students, has a low student-to-faculty ratio and offers more than 150 undergraduate and graduate majors. Learn more at <https://www.appstate.edu/about/>

More about Boone: Boone is a college town in the best sense — a place where people say hello on the street and a vibrant downtown is just a block from campus. Its eclectic hub, known as King Street, features specialty shops, restaurants, and cultural attractions. The surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains attract outdoor

enthusiasts year-round for hiking, skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking, cycling, fishing, kayaking, rock climbing, and other activities. Learn more at this [link](#)

Office of Disability Resources Accommodations: Appalachian State University is committed to providing an inclusive experience, accessible learning [and working] environments and equal opportunity to individuals with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Individuals needing reasonable accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Resources (828) 262-3056 or odr.appstate.edu.

AA/EEO Statement: Appalachian State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. The University does not discriminate in access to its educational programs and activities, or with respect to hiring or the terms and conditions of employment, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), gender identity and expression, political affiliation, age, disability, veteran status, genetic information or sexual orientation.