



ATBO-123 – Introduction to Outdoor Skills

Business

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2025

Course Outline Review Date: 2030-04-01

Program Area: Tourism, Recreation, & Hospitality

Description:

This course introduces the student to the core outdoor skills required of professionals in the adventure tourism industry. Students learn how to care for self and other group participants in a wilderness setting. The many outdoor skills learned in this course significantly enhance the student's ability to spend time in the wilderness or pursue a career as a professional in the adventure tourism industry. This course also engages concepts from the Outdoor Council of Canada and Leave No Trace Canada.

Program Information:

This course is a required course of the Adventure Tourism Business Operations (ATBO) program. It is typically taken in the first year of ATBO studies.

Delivery Methods: On-campus (Face-to-Face), Practicum

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 2

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	12
Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	

Practicum/Field Experience	28
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	40

Course Requisites:

None

Prior Learning and Recognition: Yes

Students are able to request formal recognition of their prior learning or experience outside the classroom. Challenge examination, portfolio-assisted assessment, work-based assessment or a combination of assessments that is appropriate to identify, assess, and recognize prior skills, competencies, and knowledge to achieve course credit. Tuition fees apply, refer to Policy [2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition \(PLAR\)](#) or contact an education advisor for more information.

Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca> . For more transfer credit information, please visit <https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columbia or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrolment Services office.

Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Required: Field Logbook (4.5" X 7" Rite-in-the-Rain logbooks are best for field use)

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator <https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Employ the technical equipment necessary to keep themselves and other group participants safe and comfortable in the outdoors;
- Create effective planning documents for the provisioning of groups in wilderness settings;
- Appraise wilderness locations to establish safe and effective camp locations;
- Construct effective wilderness fires, shelters, and food storage solutions;
- Explain the use of a variety of wilderness communication devices, including two way radios and satellite communications;
- Solve the challenges of supplying themselves with appropriate food and water in a wilderness setting;
- Orient themselves as to the traditional First Nations lands they are located upon; and
- Apply Leave No Trace (LNT) standards for wilderness camping under the umbrella of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 15: Life on Land.

Course Topics:

- leadership and professionalism in the outdoors
- low impact camping – Leave No Trace ethics
- orientation to traditional land use by First Nations
- camp set up (tents, tarps, emergency shelters)
- back country food (preparation, planning, storage, camp stove use)
- practical outdoor skills (fire building, knot tying, knife use)
- animal safety awareness (bear and cougar safety, food caches)
- emergency communications in the outdoors
- four season camping and shelter construction
- curriculum from the Outdoor Council of Canada
- Skills: knot tying, knife safety, shelter building, campsite set up, fire building, camp stove use, camp hygiene meal planning, water treatment options, and animal safety

See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.

Evaluation and Assessments

Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face)

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Technical Skills	50%
Teaching & Planning Skills	25%

Leadership skills	10%
Exam	15%
Total	100%

Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

Pass requirements: None

Evaluation Notes: A grade of “D” grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Evaluation Notes Comments:

Please see the instructor syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments, and use of electronic aids.

Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a “0” on the exam.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.1.4 Course Audit
- Policy 2.4.1 Credential Framework
- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct
- Policy 2.4.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Feedback and Concerns
- Policy 2.4.11 Storage of Academic Works
- Policy 2.5.3 Student Appeal
- Policy 2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

Course Changes:

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.