



ATBO-135 – Raft Guide Skills Level 1

Business

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2022

Course Outline Review Date: 2026-04-01

Program Area: Tourism, Recreation, & Hospitality

Description:

Students will learn practical introductory skills in white water rafting and operations for professional outfitters or for personal trips. This course is the first step to professional raft guide certification. Students will learn and practice all aspects of the white-water raft guiding industry, from pre-trip preparation to on water raft handling skills and river reading and safety skills. Students will learn to navigate the upper glacier-fed waters of the Kicking Horse River and other Rocky Mountain rivers around Golden, BC.

Program Information:

This course is an elective course of the ATBO Program. When this course is taken in conjunction with ATBO 230 Swift Water Rescue, and ATBO 235 Raft Guide Skills Level 2, it can lead to professional certification as a white-water raft guide with the BCROA (BC River Outfitters Association).

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	
Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	

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

Course Requisites:

- Complete all of the following
 - Completed or concurrently enrolled in:
 - [ATBO230](#) – Swift Water Rescue Technician (2)
 - Prerequisites: Students must be 19 years old to take this course.

Flexible Assessment: Yes

In some cases students may be able to apply for recognition of prior learning outside the classroom. This flexible assessment process provides equivalent course credit. It is a rigorous process that may include external evaluation, worksite assessment, demonstration, standardized test, self-assessment, interview, products/portfolio, and challenge exam, or other measures as appropriate. Tuition fees apply. 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:

Bennett, J. (1996). *The complete white water rafter*, Ragged Mountain Press.

BCROA Certification Guide

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:

- identify and understand river dynamics;
- identify and utilize all rafting equipment, related safety gear and equipment;
- demonstrate river rescue techniques and self-rescue techniques; and
- maneuver the raft in up to class 2-3 water, using oar and paddle strokes.

Course Topics:

- Personal clothing and safety gear
- Whitewater raft equipment, and rigging
- River terminology, river hazards, and hydrodynamics
- River safety skills
- River safety briefings
- Raft handling – by oar and by paddle
- Raft handling in white water

OPTIONAL COURSE TOPICS:

- Communication and safety systems
- Map reading, and outdoor skills
- Knots, and rope rescue
- Commercial operations

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
Movement Skills	50%
Technical and Safety Skills	30%
Leadership Skills	20%
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 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Conduct (plagiarism, other cheating, behavioral misconduct)
- Policy 2.5.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.5.3 Grade Appeal
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Concerns Re Faculty

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.

