



ATBO-135 – Raft Guide Skills Level 1

Business

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2026

Course Outline Review Date: 2031-04-01

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 be introduced to 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.

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 the ability to challenge certification as a white-water raft guide with the white-water rafting industry.

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:

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:

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

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

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)
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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.