



## ATBO-152 – Winter Back Country Travel Level 1

### Business

**Effective Term & Year:** Fall 2022  
**Course Outline Review Date:** 2028-09-01

**Program Area:** Tourism, Recreation, & Hospitality

#### Description:

This course is designed to teach students the skills necessary for backcountry skiing and snowboarding in avalanche terrain. Topics include appropriate equipment selection and use, uphill and downhill travel techniques, navigation and route finding in the mountains. A large focus of this course is learning about travelling in avalanche terrain, and learning how to identify and manage the avalanche risk.

#### Program Information:

This course is an elective course in the Adventure Tourism Business Operations 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	
Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	40
Co-op/Work Experience	

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Other

Total	40
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**Course Requisites:**

- Complete all of the following
  - Completed the following:
    - [ATBO151](#) – Ski/Snowboard Instructor Level 1 (2)
  - Or equivalent experience.
  - Completed or concurrently enrolled in:
    - [ATBO105](#) – Wilderness Travel (3)
  - 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.

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**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.

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**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:

**Suggested Reading:**

“Avalanche Skills Training Handbook, by James Floyer and Keith Robine”

## Topographical Map – 1:50,000 Touring at Rogers Pass, by Murray Toft

*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.*

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### **Learning Outcomes:**

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

- demonstrate winter back country travel techniques appropriate to the terrain being traveled in;
  - demonstrate both uphill and downhill travel techniques in a variety of terrain and snow conditions; and
  - minimize the group's exposure to avalanche hazards by assessing conditions, and selecting appropriate areas and routes for travel.
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### **Course Topics:**

#### **Movement Skills**

- Uphill Travel: Track Setting, Pace
- Downhill Travel: Skiing/Boarding in Off Piste Terrain
- Skiing/Boarding responsibility in the back country

#### **Technical and Safety Skills**

- Avalanche Theory
- Avalanche Travel Techniques
- Avalanche Rescue

#### **Leadership Skills**

- Trip Preparation
- Group Management Skills
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Risk Management

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

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## **Evaluation and Assessments**

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

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Movement Skills	30%
Technical and Safety Skills	40%
Leadership Skills	30%
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’s 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

#### Equivalent Course(s) and Course Code Changes

Equivalent Course: Students who have received COTR credit for ATBO 152 may not receive additional credit for MAST 143.

**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.