



ATBO-221 – Backpacking Level 2

Business

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2026
Course Outline Review Date: 2031-04-01

Program Area: Tourism, Recreation, & Hospitality

Description:

This course continues to build on the skills and knowledge developed in ATBO 121 Backpack Level 1. The hiking conditions are more challenging, and students learn the skills necessary to lead backpacking trips in the wilderness. This course is designed to prepare students for the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides (ACMG) Day Hiking and Backpacking Guide exams.

Program Information:

This course is a required course of the Adventure Tourism Business Diploma program. It is typically taken in the second 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	8
Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	40
Co-op/Work Experience	

Other

Total	48
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Course Requisites:

- Completed the following:
 - [ATBO121](#) – Backpacking Level 1 (2)

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:

Suggested Reading:

Chelland, Mike. *Allen & Mike's Really Cool Backpacking'* book. O'Bannon, Allen & illustrations

Topographical Maps – 1:50,000 82N3 Mount Wheeler

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:

- plan and prepare for a back packing expedition;
 - navigate off trail in the mountain environment;
 - demonstrate competency in lightweight wilderness travel techniques;
 - use good leadership techniques to manage a hiking group;
 - make sound decisions in the mountain environment; and
 - meet the prerequisites to enter into the ACMG Day Hiking Guide exam.
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Course Topics:

Movement Skills

- Hiking in Mountain Terrain
- Pacing, Fitness

Technical and Safety Skills

- Trip Preparation, Food and Equipment Planning
- Route Planning and Navigation
- Mountain Awareness, Terrain, Weather
- Wilderness Camping, Including Bear Awareness

Leadership Skills

- Client Care
- Group Management
- Judgement and Decision Making

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	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

No pass requirements available.

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.