



## ATBO-250 – Avalanche Skills Training Level 2

### Business

**Effective Term & Year:** Fall 2024

**Course Outline Review Date:** 2029-04-01

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

#### Description:

This course is designed for the intermediate back country skier or splitboarder who wants to improve their decision-making skills as appropriate for venturing into more complex avalanche terrain. Students will focus on the practical collection and analysis of relevant data as the basis for making decisions regarding travel in avalanche terrain. This course follows the curriculum for the Canadian Avalanche Centre Avalanche Skills Training Level 2 course. Successful students will receive a CAC AST Level 2 Certification.

#### Program Information:

This course is an elective course of the Adventure Tourism Business Operations 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	

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Practicum/Field Experience	32
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	40

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**Course Requisites:**

- Completed or concurrently enrolled in:
  - [ATBO152](#) – Winter Back Country Travel Level 1 (2)

**Flexible Assessment:** No

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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:

Staying Alive in Avalanche Terrain, by Bruce Tremper (provided on course)

Decision Making in Avalanche Terrain, by Canadian Avalanche Centre (provided on course)

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:

- interpret professionally prepared information presented online, such as avalanche bulletins, weather forecasts, and mountain conditions reports;
- develop a systematic approach towards evaluating snow stability and hazard;
- conduct a variety of tests in snow pits (such as compression tests, shear tests, burp tests, etc.) to collect information on snow stability;
- apply the Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale (ATES) to assess the hazard posed by the surrounding terrain;
- determine an appropriate route selection to make informed decisions when skiing and splitboarding in avalanche terrain; and
- demonstrate an effective companion rescue.

### Course Topics:

- Snow crystals, weak layers
- Snowpacks, snow regions
- Snow stability tests
- The influence of weather
- The evaluator, ATES, and terrain
- Trip planning
- Judgement and decision making in avalanche terrain

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	40%
Technical Skills	30%
Safety Skills	30%
Total	100%

### Grade Scheme

COM	NCG
Completed to the minimum defined standard	No credit granted – less than minimum defined standard

### Evaluation Notes Comments:

This course is graded as complete or incomplete. To complete the course, the student must

pass the CAC Avalanche Skills Training Level 2 Certification course.

*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.

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**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
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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.