



ATBO-255 – Canyoneering Guide Skills

Business

Effective Term & Year: Spring 2027
Course Outline Review Date: 2032-01-01

Program Area: Tourism, Recreation, & Hospitality

Description:

This 40-hour course introduces the American Canyoneering Association (ACA) Assistant Guide curriculum, preparing students for canyoning careers through technical skill development, decision-making, environmental awareness, and group management. Training combines classroom and field experiences across varied environments, progressing to applied canyon scenarios to build confidence. Offered as a second-year elective in the Adventure Tourism Business Operations Diploma, the course does not include ACA certification, which requires additional independent assessments, documented experience, and an internship.

Program Information:

This course is an elective option in the Adventure Tourism Business Operations Programs

Delivery Methods: On-campus (Face-to-Face)

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 2

Course type/s:

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:**Prior Learning and Recognition: Yes****Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition:**

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 Enrollment Service office.

Textbook Resources:

Textbook and resource selections may vary by instructor and are subject to change. At the time of this course outline's effective date, required resources were:

TBD

Learning Outcomes:

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

- apply sound judgment and decision-making practices in canyon environments under the supervision of a professional guide;
 - assess canyon terrain, water flow, environmental conditions, and objective hazards;
 - evaluate environmental conditions and their implications for group safety and travel;
 - develop basic canyon trip plans including route selection, timing, and contingency planning;
 - select, use, and maintain appropriate canyoning equipment;
 - demonstrate efficient horizontal, semi-vertical, and vertical movement techniques in canyon terrain;
 - rig and manage rope systems including hand lines, rappels, guided rappels, ascents, and system transitions under the supervision of a professional guide;
 - demonstrate effective group management practices in dry and swiftwater canyon environments;
 - perform basic vertical and swiftwater rescue techniques; and
 - demonstrate familiarity with emergency planning procedures and communication with organized rescue services.
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Course Topics:

Canyon Environment and Ethics

- Canyon environments and characteristics
- Canyon interpretation, including geology, ecology, and natural history
- Leave No Trace principles

Risk and Group Management

- Risk assessment and hazard mitigation
- Group management strategies

Trip Preparation and Equipment

- Trip planning and preparation
- Equipment selection and packing systems

- Rope physics and industry standards

Canyoning Movement Skills

Horizontal and Semi-Vertical Progression

- Walking in canyon terrain
- Swiftwater swimming
- Downclimbing techniques
- Slides
- Jumps

Rope-Assisted Progression and Rigging

- Hand lines
- Water rappels
- Guided rappels
- Ascending systems
- Rope transitions

Rescue Skills

- Simple vertical rescues
- Basic swiftwater rescue techniques

Incident Management

- Accident analysis and incident review
- Canyon-specific first aid considerations
- Communication with organized rescue services

Evaluation and Assessments

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

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Practical Skills Assessment	60%
Theory Examination	40%
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:

A passing average (50% or higher) in both the theory and practical components.

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.