



MAST-156 – Avalanche Skills Training 2

Business

Effective Term & Year: Winter 2025
Course Outline Review Date: 2030-09-01

Program Area: Tourism, Recreation, & Hospitality

Description:

Avalanche Skills Training 2 is the second part of a two-part training and occurs after Avalanche Skills Training 1. AST 2 provides an intermediate to advanced-level decision-making framework. AST 2 is suitable for individuals who have a moderate degree of training and experience in avalanche terrain and who have spent time practicing their skills. In the classroom and field sessions, students focus on using group decision-making skills to manage avalanche risk, using intermediate to advanced concepts to describe the theoretical framework of avalanche terrain and snowpack, planning and carrying out trips using the seven steps of the daily process, and organizing and leading companion rescue.

Program Information:

This course is required for completion of the MAST certificate.

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	12
Seminar/Tutorials	

Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	27
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	39

Course Requisites:

- Completed the following:
 - [MAST146](#) – Avalanche Skills Training 1 (2)

Flexible Assessment: Yes

Students are able to request formal recognition of their prior learning or experience outside the classroom. Challenge examination, portfolio-assisted assessment, or work-based assessment are used 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:

Canadian Avalanche Association; Avalanche Skill Training Level 2 Course Manual

Staying Alive in Avalanche Terrain – 2nd Ed. Bruce Tremper; 2008

Canadian Avalanche Association; Observation Guidelines and Recording Standards for Weather, Snowpack and Avalanches; Prepared by: Canadian Avalanche Association, 2016

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

- Demonstrate decision-making skills of a group to manage avalanche risk;
- Use intermediate to advanced concepts to describe the theoretical framework of avalanche terrain and snowpack;
- Plan and carry out trips using the seven steps of the Daily Process; and
- Organize and lead companion rescue.

Course Topics:

- Decision-making
- Avalanche risk
- Avalanche forecasts and resources
- Theoretical framework of avalanche terrain and process
- ATES ratings
- Snowpack
- Weather
- Equipment
- Companion Rescue Skills
- Good travel habits
- Slope evaluation
- Reflection

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
Participants are evaluated on ongoing learning daily field assessments that demonstrate competency at an AST 2 level for the following:	
1. Weather, Snowpack & Avalanche Observations	20%
2. Knowledge of Avalanche Terrain	20%
3. Group management and communication	20%
4. Rescue equipment application and companion rescue	20%
5. Efficient movement skills and self-care	20%

Total	100%
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Grade Scheme

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

Evaluation Notes: Students are required to achieve a minimum of 70% to achieve a grade of COM

Evaluation Notes Comments:

A mark of 70% in each section above is required to pass this 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.

Students must attend all lecture and planning classes and complete field days to complete the standard.

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.