EXTS – Exploring Trades Sampler Program

Trades

Effective Term & Year: Winter 2027
Program Outline Review Date: 2032-09-01

Program Area: Trades Non-apprenticeship Training

Description:

The program consists of a minimum of five modules. The first module is a mandatory cross-curricular component that provides foundational knowledge in workplace safety, employability skills, the British Columbia apprenticeship system, and industry-recognized certifications.

The remaining four modules introduce students to a range of skilled trades, which may include automotive service technician, carpentry, electrical, heavy-duty equipment technician, industrial mechanic (millwright), piping, plumbing, and welding. Additional trade areas may also be incorporated to reflect industry needs and regional opportunities.

The program is designed to provide students with broad exposure to multiple trades through a combination of hands-on learning activities, industry engagement, and career exploration opportunities. To ensure a balanced learning experience, each trade module is expected to receive approximately equal instructional time and include meaningful interaction with employers or industry representatives in the respective trade. In addition, students will participate in at least one site visit, providing direct exposure to workplace environments and career pathways within the skilled trades sector.

Credentials Granted:

Upon successful completion of the Exploring Trades Sampler Program, students receive:

- College of the Rockies Certificate of Achievement

The Exploring Trades Sampler program can be used as dual credit towards a high school diploma.

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

Program Duration: 12 weeks full time program, or part-time equivalent.

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Instructional Hours (hrs/wk)	
Directed Studies (hrs/wk)	
Total (hrs/wk)	
Total Program Hours	300

Admission Requirements:

Trades career exploration and suitability interview

Highly Recommended Admission Prerequisites:

The following education is highly recommended for student success within the program:

Minimum of Grade 10 (or equivalent from a recognized post-secondary institution) completion

Prior Learning and Recognition:

Credit can be awarded for this program through Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition.

Program Transfer Credit:

For information about block transfer agreements between programs in British Columbia, Alberta, and elsewhere, please visit http://www.cotr.bc.ca/transfer.

To minimize transfer issues, check with an academic advisor at the institution that will receive the transfer credits.

Textbooks and Required Resources:

No textbooks required.

Program Competencies and Technical Training Content:

The Explorer Trades Sampler Program Outline covers the general area competencies for the program as sourced from curriculum documents provided by Skilled Trades BC (STBC).

This program includes one mandatory core cross-curricular module and a minimum of four trades specific modules.

The core module includes general information that is not specific to a single trade and includes the following:

- Safety training
- BC’s apprenticeship system
- Careers related to each trade specific module via both internet exploration and in person experiences.
- Employment and Social Development Canada’s nine Skills for Success (Essential Skills) and how workers in an occupation use them
- Conference Board of Canada’s employability skills for successful transitions to the workplace
- At least three industry-recognized workforce certifications, with Occupational First Aid Level 1 and WHMIS serving as mandatory certification components.

Trades specific modules could include, but not limited to:

- Automotive Service Technician
- Carpenter
- Electrician
- Heavy Duty Equipment Technician
- Industrial Mechanic (Millwright)
- Piping Trades
- Plumber
- Welder

Program competencies:

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

- apply professional and employability skills by demonstrating reliability, punctuality, preparedness, initiative, and effective participation in a trades training environment;
- describe the structure, expectations, and career opportunities within the skilled trades,

including the BC apprenticeship system and the roles and responsibilities of trades workers;
- demonstrate knowledge of occupational health and safety requirements by recognizing hazards and applying WorkSafeBC regulations, safe work procedures, and industry standards;
- implement workplace safety practices through the proper use of personal protective equipment, WHMIS protocols, fire prevention measures, emergency response procedures, and basic first aid;
- identify and control workplace hazards while applying safe work practices across a variety of trades environments and activities;
- apply basic mathematical concepts and measurement techniques to accurately complete trades-related calculations, measurements, and project requirements;
- interpret and use technical drawings and construction plans to determine dimensions, understand drawing conventions, and visualize project layouts;
- safely select, use, and maintain common hand tools, portable power tools, equipment, ladders, and scaffolding in accordance with industry's best practices; and
- plan and complete practical trades projects by selecting appropriate materials, tools, equipment, and work methods to meet project specifications and quality standards.

Evaluation and Assessment:

Assignments	% Of Total Grade
Work Habits (Attendance, Participation, Preparedness, Time Management)	40%
Portfolio/Journal/Interviews and Workplace Courses	20%
Safety Quizzes and Safe Work Practices	20%
Projects- Trade Specific	20%
Total	100%

Pass Requirements:

Students must complete all program requirements and earn a Completion (COM) grade in each module.

Students must provide their own:

Required supplies will vary based on where the program is offered and specific trade program requirements.

- Steel-toed Leather Work Boots
- Safety Glasses
- Pens, pencils, notebook
- Calculator

Industry site visit:

There may be off-site field trips organized in the program as opportunity or resources are available during this program. Students are required to arrange their own transportation for such field trips. Students are expected to follow all college policies and procedures when participating in off-campus activities.

Workplace Health and Safety Courses:

Basic First Aid – (PVHE-100)

Fall Protection (PVHE-517)

Workplace Hazardous Material Information System (WHMIS: PVHE-700)

Workplace Health and Safety Courses Grade Scheme:

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

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)

Program Grade

COM	NCG
Completed to the defined standard – 70% or greater	No Credit Granted – less than 70%

Program Changes:

Information contained in program outlines is correct at the time of publication. Content of the program is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational, employment, and marketing needs. The instructor endeavours to provide notice of changes to students as soon as possible. The instructor reserves the right to add material to programs.

Safety Catalog:

WorkSafeBC regulations apply to all trades programs. Students are expected to follow all safe work practices and have high regard for the safety of others as well as of themselves. Students are responsible to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) as directed. At a minimum, students must provide and wear approved safety footwear and eyewear at all times in the shop. Additional PPE may be required for specific tasks. Students are expected to wear clothing suitable for working safely in the shop.