MAST – Mountain Adventure Skills Training

Business

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2025
Program Outline Review Date: 2030-04-01

Program Area: Tourism, Recreation, & Hospitality

Description:

The Mountain Adventure Skills Training Program (MAST) is an experiential and applied full-time nine-month, on-campus certificate that prepares students for employment in the field of Adventure, Adventure Tourism or to continue their studies toward university degrees. Students are introduced to a broad range of skills, earn certifications, and develop technical knowledge through class lectures, projects and multiple outdoor field courses. MAST provides the foundation for competency and professional pursuit in various outdoor adventure disciplines. After completion of the MAST certificate, students may find employment in entry-level jobs in adventure tourism and recreation businesses: Adventure Guide or Instructor, Professional Ski Patrol, Raft Guide, Tail Guide – Cat Skiing, Ski/Snowboard Instructor, Outdoor Educator or Instructor .

Program Information:

The MAST program follows the BC Provincial Adventure Tourism Certificate Program Standardized Core Curriculum.

The MAST program ladders into the Adventure Tourism Business Operations Diploma program at the College's Golden Campus or you may consider one of our partner institutions. For more information see http://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer.

Industry Certifications that may be achieved (certification offerings may change):

1. Canoe Day or Expedition Guide Certification
2. Basic or Advanced Tandem Lakewater Paddler

3. Basic Solo Lakewater Paddler
4. Basic or Advanced Tandem Moving Water Paddler
5. Swiftwater Canoe Rescue Foundations
6. Swiftwater Rescue Technician Level 3
7. Avalanche Skills Training 1
8. Avalanche Skills Training 2
9. Companion Rescue
10. Interpretive Guides Association Basic Knowledge Course
11. CASI Snowboard Instructor Certification
12. CSIA Ski Instructor Certification
13. Wilderness First Responder Certification
14. Occupational First Aid

Credentials Granted:

The Mountain Adventure Skills Training Certificate is awarded upon successful completion of required courses (38 Credits).

Minimum Course Grade: A minimum grade of D

Program Average: A minimum program grade point average of 2.0/10 (C- average)

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

Credits: 44

Admission Requirements:

- Complete all of the following
  - Secondary school graduation or equivalent.
  - Earned a minimum grade of C+ (65%) in at least 1 of the following:
    - ENST 12 – English Studies 12
    - ENFP 12 – English First Peoples 12
    - ENGL090 – English – Provincial Level

Non-Academic Admission Requirements:

- Completion and submission of MAST Program Admissions Package, which includes the MAST Admissions Questionnaire, the MAST Ski Ability Policy and Agreement, The MAST Physical Fitness & Abilities Agreement and the MAST Medical History Questionnaire.
- Advanced written acknowledgement regarding MAST program waivers which will be

signed a second time in person.
- 19 years or older as of December 1st. If not 19 at program start date required co-signature of program waivers from guardian and re-signed upon turning 19.

Program Completion Requirements:

Required Courses
38 Total Credits

- Complete all of the following
  - Completed the following:
    - MAST111 – Risk Management in Adventure Tourism (3)
    - MAST114 – Natural History (3)
    - MAST119 – Guiding and Leadership (3)
    - MAST121 – Introduction to Adventure Tourism Industry (3)
    - MAST122 – Wilderness Travel Theory (3)
    - MAST136 – Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (3)
    - MAST140 – Rock Climbing (2)
    - MAST141 – Hiking 1 (2)
    - MAST142 – Mountaineering 1 (2)
    - MAST143 – Ski Touring 1 (2)
    - MAST144 – Canoe Skills (2)
    - MAST145 – Whitewater Raft Guide Training 1 (2)
    - MAST146 – Avalanche Skills Training 1 (2)
    - MAST147 – Alpine Ski/Snowboard Instructor Certification (2)
    - MAST156 – Avalanche Skills Training 2 (2)
  - Completed at least 1 of the following:
    - MAST150 – Advanced First Aid (2)
    - MAST151 – Wilderness Medical Associates Wilderness First Responder (2)

Optional Elective Courses
6 Total Credits

- Complete all of the following
  - A selection of additional certification electives is offered throughout the program, they are not required for credential completion. Elective choices strengthen adventure skills and future personal and professional applications. Electives offered are dependent on yearly scheduling, demand, and have limited enrolments. There is no extra charge for electives and no refund if you choose not to enroll.
  - Completed at least 1 of the following:
    - MAST162 – Ski Tour 2 (2)
    - MAST165 – Swiftwater Rescue Technician 3 (2)
    - MAST169 – River Expedition Skills (2)
  - Completed at least 1 of the following:
    - MAST166 – Whitewater Raft Guide Training 2 (2)
    - MAST167 – Introduction to Whitewater Kayaking (2)

- Completed at least 1 of the following:
  - MAST168 – Canoe Guide (2)
  - MAST172 – Mountain Bike Skills Development (2)

Grand Total Credits: 44

Program Completion Requirements Notes:

A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Program Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the program, participants will

- Apply expert and technical knowledge of various outdoor activities to effectively lead oneself and others.
- Employ analytical skills to evaluate situations, identify challenges and propose solutions across diverse contexts and environments.
- Demonstrate professionalism and skills for transfer of learning to future settings, including diligence, flexible learning mindset, teamwork, self-reflection, and self-care.
- Practice and refine interpersonal skills, such as presenting professionally, working in teams, building rapport, using and inspiring ethics, listening, resolving conflicts, and maintaining confidentiality.
- Communicate efficiently and effectively with diverse audiences in the mountain adventure field, using industry-specific language to educate, and adapt communication methods to different contexts and situations.
- Manage risk in mountain adventure by developing a hazard catalogue, analyzing probability and consequence, understanding bias, refining decision-making practices through self-reflection, and managing uncertainty.
- Apply business skills, including market analysis, strategic thinking, planning, marketing, and entrepreneurship, and integrate industry knowledge related to the adventure sector: hiring and retention, career paths, certification streams, and industry regulatory bodies.
- Interpret and apply knowledge of natural and human history, stewardship, and Indigenous Studies to enhance outdoor adventure experiences.

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.

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.

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 Changes:

Information contained in this program outline is correct at the time of publication. Courses and course content may be revised from time to time based on changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The timetable may also be revised.

Course Descriptions: Refer to Course Outlines – https://outlines.cotr.bc.ca/course/