Minnesota North College – Vermilion Campus Academic Year 2023-24
Outdoor Leadership Associate of Science (60 credits)

First Year

FALL SEMESTER 2023 – 15 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ENGL 1231 – College Composition 1 (MnTC Goal 1)	(CLW)	4	
OUTL 1230 – Canoe Expedition		*2*	*(0.5/3)*
OUTL 1251 – Outdoor Pursuits 1	*(CLR, CLW)*	*3*	*(1.5/3)*
PREC 1241 – Introduction to Recreation, Parks, and Tourism	*(ENGL92; READ92)*	*3*	
SOC 1200 – Introduction to Sociology (MnTC Goals 5 & 7)	(CLR)	3	

SPRING SEMESTER 2024 – 16 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ENGL 1232 – College Composition 2 (MnTC Goal 1)	(ENGL1231)	3	
MATH 1215 – Statistics (MnTC Goal 4)	(MATH0200)	4	
OUTL 1252 – Outdoor Pursuits 2	*(OUTL1251)*	*3*	*(1.5/3)*
PREC 2256 – Recreation Programming	(OUTL1251; PREC1241 or WILD1265)	3	
PSYC 1215 – General Psychology (MnTC Goals 5 & 7)	(CLR)	3	

Second Year

FALL SEMESTER 2024 – 16 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
COMM 1215 – Public Speaking (MnTC Goal 1) OR COMM 1220 – Interpersonal Communication (preferred) (MnTC Goal 1)		3	
HUM 1215 – Human Creativity and Culture (MnTC Goals 6 & 8)	(CLR, CLW)	4	
NSCI 1220 – Environmental Science (MnTC Goals 3 & 10)	(CLR)	3	
OUTL 2210 – Theory and Practice of Teaching Paddlesports	*(OUTL1230; OUTL1251 or instructor approval)*	*3*	*(1/4)*
MnTC Goal Area 5 History course (MnTC Goal 5)	(see catalog)	3	

SPRING SEMESTER 2025 – 13 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ART 1346 – Digital Photography (MnTC Goal 6)		3	
BIOL 1200 – Introduction to Biology (MnTC Goals 3 & 10)	(CLR)	4	(3/2)
OUTL 2250 – Outdoor Leadership Capstone	*(OUTL1251; PREC1241)*	*3*	
PHIL 1230 – Ethics (MnTC Goals 6 & 9)	(CLR, CLW)	3	

Additional Recommended Courses:

Courses in *Italics* can also be applied toward completion of the Backcountry Guide Certificate. Successful completion of the Backcountry Guide Certificate requires completion of two additional courses---EMSV 1275 Wilderness First Responder and OUTL 1245 Leave No Trace Trainer Certification---and can enhance a resume when applying for positions. Connect with your advisor if you are pursuing additional degrees or certificates.

Other recommended courses include any OUTL/PHED outdoor skills course (OUTL/PHED 1134 - Dogsledding, OUTL/PHED 1146 - Rock Climbing, OUTL/PHED 1128 - Canoeing, OUTL/PHED 1152 - Winter Camping), additional OUTL expedition course, OUTL 1255 - Introduction to Outdoor Recreation Therapy, OUTL 2255 - Adaptive Techniques for Outdoor Pursuits, and/or ART 1485 - Canoe Paddle Building.

Program Description

This program develops students' academic and technical knowledge related to the field of Outdoor Leadership. It recognizes the specialization related to subjects in Outdoor Leadership, Outdoor Education, Experiential Education, and Wilderness Leadership. Program courses are a mix of theoretical and foundational knowledge, as well as an extended wilderness trip, skill development, and professional certification. This program may also serve to augment the resume of transfer students planning to pursue teaching licensure as it is becoming more common for schools to employ adventure education programming in their curriculum.

Occupational Titles

Successful students in this program gain fundamental skills in the planning, delivery, and assessment of outdoor leadership programming. These skills will aid them in gaining employment in the fields of adventure education, experiential education, guiding/instructing in outdoor pursuits, wilderness and backcountry travel, adventure tourism, and backcountry recreation technician.

Outdoor Leadership A.S.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will:

Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Skills

1. Assess their strengths and challenges, how they make decisions, and how they cope with adversity in the field.
2. Demonstrate the willingness to be responsible for themselves and others by understanding and practicing expedition behavior.
3. Understand how to work with and reach out to various types of learners and populations which they may encounter in professional settings.

Environmental Awareness and Ethical Land Stewardship

4. Study natural systems.
5. Develop their own environmental ethic.
6. Understand the principle of Leave No Trace (LNT) backcountry ethics for a variety of course areas and seasons.

Outdoor Leadership and Education Program Delivery

7. Define and implement concepts of outdoor education and the experiential learning model.
8. Develop and deliver lesson plans for a variety of outdoor technical skills.
9. Assess risk and develop risk management plans for the wilderness setting including various methods of human powered travel, seasons, and course areas.

Outdoor Technical Skills

10. Develop proficiency in a variety of human powered outdoor activities (canoeing, kayaking, snowshoeing, hiking, rock climbing, skiing, dogsledding, etc.).
11. Demonstrate proficiency in navigation (maps, compass, GPS).
12. Gain professional certification in Leave No Trace (LNT) backcountry ethics.
13. Gain American Canoe Association assessment and/or certification.
14. Manage and maintain their own and student health and hygiene in the field by staying warm and dry, cooking, personal hygiene, and energy control.

Transfer and Articulation Agreements

Articulation agreements with Winona State University's Bachelor's of Science in Recreation, Tourism, and Therapeutic Recreation (Track A: Recreation and Tourism), as well as University of Minnesota – Duluth's Bachelor's of Science Degree in Recreation – Outdoor Education are in the works for Minnesota North College. There will also be a specific Transfer Guide for the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point to facilitate transfer of this Vermilion program to a related program there.

Students awarded this degree will have completed the MnTC. Students completing this degree program plus one Physical Activity/Competitive Sports course and one Wellness/Health course (2 credits minimum) will also have completed the Liberal Arts and Sciences A.A. degree program.

Program Faculty Contact

Mark Carlson (mark.carlson@minnesotanorth.edu or 218-235-2141)

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