

Outdoor Leadership
Certificate | 30 credits

Campus: Vermilion

Required Courses

Offered FALL SEMESTER – 12 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
OUTL 1230 – Canoe Expedition		2	(0.5/3)
OUTL 1251 – Outdoor Pursuits 1	(CLR, CLW)	3	(1.5/3)
OUTL 2210 – Theory and Practice of Teaching Paddlesports	(OUTL 1230; OUTL 1251*)	3	(1/4)
PHED(OUTL) 1146 – Rock Climbing (fall)		1	(0.2/1.6)
PREC 1241 – Introduction to Recreation, Parks, and Tourism	(CLR, CLW)	3	

(*or instructor approval for Outdoor Leadership Certificate-only students)

Additional Required Courses

Offered SPRING SEMESTER – 15 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
EMSV 1275 – Wilderness First Responder (spring)	(CLR)	3	(1/4)
OUTL 1210 – Backpack Expedition		2	(0.5/3)
OUTL 1245 – Leave No Trace Trainer Certification	(CLR, CLW)	1	(0.2/1.6)
OUTL 1252 – Outdoor Pursuits 2	(OUTL 1251)	3	(1.5/3)
OUTL 2250 – Outdoor Leadership Capstone	(OUTL 1251; PREC 1241)	3	
PREC 2256 – Recreation Programming	(PREC 1241 or WILD 1265; OUTL 1251)	3	

Additional Requirement – Restricted Electives

Select from list below – 3 credits required	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ART 1485 – Canoe Paddle Building (fall)		2	(1/2)
EMSV 1761 – Technical Rescue 1 (fall)		2	(0.5/3)
PHED(OUTL) 1128 – Canoeing (fall)		1	(0.2/1.6)
PHED(OUTL) 1134 – Dogsledding (spring)		1	(0.2/1.6)
PHED(OUTL) 1152 – Winter Camping (spring)		1	(0.2/1.6)

Program Description

The Outdoor Leadership Certificate consists of the 30 core credits of OUTL, PREC, and HLTH courses contained in the Outdoor Leadership A.S. degree. The certificate is designed to give students academic and technical knowledge related to the field of Outdoor Leadership and recognizes the specialization related to subjects in Outdoor Leadership. Students can choose from a wide variety of courses unique to Vermilion Community College.

This certificate is intended to complement another degree in a student's training and education and is not intended to replace the Outdoor Leadership A.S. This certificate has been designed as a sub-credential of the Outdoor Leadership A.S. at Vermilion. It is generally recognized that students wanting to be employed in Outdoor Leadership have at least a two-year degree.

Transfer students may wish to pursue the Outdoor Leadership Certificate to gain leadership and teaching experience as well as outdoor technical skills that they may employ in related fields such as natural resources and recreation management, teaching, and business.

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 as backcountry recreation technicians. This certificate may also serve to augment the education 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

Students completing this certificate may find positions with titles such as Wilderness Guide, Fishing/Hunting Guide, Outdoor Instructor, Outfitter, Trip Leader, and others.

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

Outdoor Leadership and Education Program Delivery

6. Define and implement concepts of outdoor education and the experiential learning model.
7. Develop and deliver lesson plans for a variety of outdoor technical skills.
8. 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

9. Develop proficiency in a variety of human powered outdoor activities (canoeing, kayaking, snowshoeing, hiking, rock climbing, skiing, dogsledding, etc.).
10. Demonstrate proficiency in navigation (maps, compass, GPS).
11. Gain professional certification in Leave No Trace (LNT) backcountry ethics.
12. Gain American Canoe Association assessment and/or certification.
13. Gain Wilderness First Responder 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.

Program Faculty Contact

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