



TIMBERLINE

ACADEMY BANFF

Outdoor Adventure Guide Diploma - Program Overview

Overview

This Outdoor Adventure Guide Diploma Program is a 2 year diploma program. The first year of the program is designed to be an introduction to the outdoor adventure industry and will focus on CSIA/CASI Instructor training certifications, Wilderness Advanced First Aid certifications, Avalanche Canada certifications, Indigenous Studies, Risk Management, Guiding Leadership, Interpretive Guiding certifications, Rescue Canada certifications, Paddle Canada Whitewater paddling certifications, International Rafting Federation certifications, Mountaineering training, Rock Climbing certifications & Expeditions Leading.

The second year of the Outdoor Adventure Guide Diploma is designed to set the foundations of a professional ski mountain guide via advanced Avalanche Search and Rescue training, ski mountaineering, advanced ski training and wilderness rescue medicine. Students will continue to their learning related to Risk Management & Guiding Leadership, Indigenous Studies and Wilderness Film & Photography.



The Outdoor Adventure Guide Diploma Program will also include a substantial learning block dedicated to teaching students how Parks Canada manages western Canadian national parks. Students will learn a variety of topics related to the history of Parks Canada, fire & vegetation management, visitor safety, wildlife management, ecology and managing conservation in the context of a growing outdoor adventure industry. The goal of this program is to develop leaders in the fast-growing Albertan tourism industry. More specifically in trades related to outdoor adventure. Graduates of this program will possess the skills, certifications and experience to have successful year-round careers in the industry.

Graduates of this program should be able to seamlessly transition into full-time jobs at professional ski/snowboard instructors, assistant ski & hiking guides, professional ski patrollers & avalanche forecasters, professional whitewater canoe & raft guides as well as variety of roles at Parks Canada. Graduates will also have a solid foundation towards pursuing career as a fully certified Association of Canadian Mountain Guides or Canadian Ski Guiding Association guide.

This program has 2 intakes. The November intake will run from November 1st – June 30th for year 1, with a mandatory summer internship of 8 weeks completed in either year 1 or year 2. This in addition to the June 30th finish date.

Year 2 of the program will run from November 1st – May 31st. If students were unable to fulfill their summer internship after the completion of year 1. They must complete their summer internship by September 30th of the same year.

The January intake will run from January 4th – June 30th for Year 1 of the program. A mandatory summer internship of 8 weeks will need to be completed in either year 1 or year 2. Once practical training completes each year on June 30th, the summer internship of 8 weeks will need to be completed by September 30th of the same year. Year 2 of the program will run November 1st – May 30th. The mandatory winter internship of the program will take place in Year 2.



Below is a breakdown of the schedule for the Outdoor Adventure Guide Diploma Program:

Outdoor Adventure Guide Diploma Program Year 1 November intake	Outdoor Adventure Guide Diploma Program Year 1 January intake
Winter Semester	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSIA Level 1 & 2 - Wilderness Advanced First Aid - Avalanche Safety Training Level 1 - Wilderness Film & Photography 1 - Risk MGMT & Guiding Leadership 1 - Interpretive Guiding Association – Basic - Indigenous Studies 1 - <i>Winter Internship</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSIA Level 1 & 2 - Wilderness Advanced First Aid - Avalanche Safety Training Level 1 - Wilderness Film & Photography 1 - Risk MGMT & Guiding Leadership 1 - Interpretive Guiding Association – Basic - Indigenous Studies 1
Spring Semester	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swiftwater Rescue Technician 3 - Paddle Canada Moving Water Tandem - International Rafting Federation – Guiding - Whitewater Canoe/Raft Expedition' - Hiking & Navigation - Rock Climbing - Mountaineering Expedition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swiftwater Rescue Technician 3 - Paddle Canada Moving Water Tandem - International Rafting Federation – Guiding - Whitewater Canoe/Raft Expedition' - Hiking & Navigation - Rock Climbing - Mountaineering Expedition - <i>Summer Internship</i>
Outdoor Adventure Guide Diploma Program Year 2 (Did winter internship in year 1)	Outdoor Adventure Guide Diploma Program Year 2 (Did summer internship in year 1)
Winter Semester	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSIA/CASI Level 3 Training - Avalanche Safety Training 2 - Wilderness First Responder Bridge - Canada Avalanche Association Operations Level 1 - Indigenous Studies 2 - Risk MGMT & Guiding Leadership 2 - Wilderness Film & Photography 2 - Advanced Ski Mountaineering - Ski Mountaineering Expedition - Parks Canada Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSIA/CASI Level 3 Training - Avalanche Safety Training 2 - Wilderness First Responder Bridge - Canada Avalanche Association Operations Level 1 - Indigenous Studies 2 - Risk MGMT & Guiding Leadership 2 - Wilderness Film & Photography 2 - Advanced Ski Mountaineering - Ski Mountaineering Expedition - Parks Canada Management - <i>Winter Internship</i>
Spring Semester	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parks Canada Conservation Leadership Certificate - <i>Summer Internship</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parks Canada Conservation Leadership Certificate

Year 1 Curriculum

Canadian Ski Instructor Alliance / Canada Association of Snowboard Instructors Level 1 & 2 Certifications

Students will have the opportunity to get trained and certified to become CSIA or CASI Level 1 & 2 instructors. This intensive programming will take place over the winter months in Banff at a combination of Lake Louise Ski Resort and Mount Norquay Ski Resort. These certifications allow graduates to work anywhere in Canada as professional ski or snowboard instructors. Students will also have the option to do an internship or apprenticeship at the aforementioned resorts in Alberta.

Wilderness Advanced First Aid

This course is an essential certification required to work in Alberta's outdoor adventure industry. The coursework is focused on teaching emergency first aid in a wilderness context. Students will learn to administer life-saving drugs, care for wounds, stabilize broken bones/joints, use proper scene management as well as coordinating with emergency first responders (i.e. SAR, Parks Canada, Alberta Parks).

Avalanche Canada Safety Training 1

This course serves as an introduction to travelling safely in avalanche terrain. Operating as a guide in the Alberta Rockies requires special training to avalanche safety. Students will study the science of how snow-packs form and avalanches occur. The students will also venture into the backcountry with ACMG mountain guides to evaluate the snowpack in person, practice rescue drills and become familiarized with, industry standard, avalanche safety equipment.

Interpretive Guiding Association - Basic certification

This course is designed to provide students an introductory knowledge of western Canada's flora, fauna as the human and natural history of the area. This certification course is essential to be able to work as a guide in Canadian national parks. Guides in the Canadian Rockies should have a strong understanding of the cultural significance of the area they are working in and serves as a foundation for later coursework.



Indigenous Studies 1

This course is designed to explore the cultural heritage and role of Alberta's indigenous peoples in shaping the outdoor adventure industry. Many Canadian students taking part in this program are from other parts of the country and may not have any context for indigenous peoples in western Canada. The course work will explore subjects related to cultural heritage, traditional medicines, indigenous guiding practices, land treaties as well as provide context for contemporary indigenous societies. This coursework is essential to developing well-rounded, informative guides who have a respect for conservation and cultural heritage.

Wilderness Film & Photography 1

Increasingly employers in the outdoor adventure industry are relying on their guides to improve guest experience via photography and film. This course will focus on several key subjects: introduction to equipment, editing, print advertisement, story building and brand management via digital marketing.

Students will be tasked with developing a brand related to the outdoor adventure industry. Students will be expected to use their learned skills to create both print and film advertising campaigns for their respective brands.

Graduates of this program will be able to apply their skills towards supporting outdoor adventure companies they work for as well as support their own entrepreneurial pursuits in the industry.



Risk Management & Guiding Leadership 1

The purpose of this course is to develop good risk management and leadership practices in a variety of outdoor adventure contexts. Students will learn from a variety of professional guides on different types of strategies to employ based on environmental factors, group dynamics, experience level of guests, gear and terrain.

This course will stress the importance of safety and risk management as well as develop techniques on how to apply their learning to different aspects of the program.

Rescue Canada - Swiftwater Rescue Technician 3 certification

This course trains students to perform rescues in medium to high risk moving water environments. Students will learn how to rescue people and equipment from rivers using simple to complex rope systems. Students will also learn a variety a swimming and throw bagging techniques essential to work as a professional river guide in Alberta.

Paddle Canada - Moving Water Tandem certification

This course introduces students to paddling tandem canoes in class 1- 2+ rapids. Students will learn different techniques to safely navigate large, cold water rivers while also practice self and companion rescue skills. This course is essential to anyone looking work as a canoe guide in Canada.

International Rafting Federation - Guide certification

This course introduces students to paddling rafts on class 2 – 3+ rivers. Students will learn different techniques required to pilot a raft down a large river with multiple guests onboard. Special emphasis is put on good communication and the ability to work with guests to successfully paddle the raft. Students will also learn different techniques for managing guests falling into the river and rescuing flipped rafts. This course is essential to work on Alberta rivers such as the Athabasca, Kananaskis, Red Deer and Bow River.





Whitewater Canoe / Raft Guiding Expedition

This weeklong expedition course exposes students to what it's like to work as river guide for a Canadian outfitting company. Students will be able to put their learned technical skill to use while also learning to cook, manage a campsite and navigate a river. Students will also be expected to use their skills related to risk management, interpretive guiding and indigenous studies to provide a good 'mock guest' experience. Students on this course will be expected to make group decisions under supervision from professional Paddle Canada, IRF and Rescue Canada guides.

Introduction to Hiking & Navigation

This course will include classroom navigation learning along with consecutive days of hiking and wilderness travel based in the Bow Valley.

Deliverables of this course will include teaching students how to develop comprehensive route plans as well as implementing both Digital Navigation Products such as Google Earth and GPS based route plans, as well as baseline navigation skills and route plans developed using topographical maps and compass.

All learned skills and developed route plans will be tested and put to use by students in the field while the groups execute significant hiking objectives on mountains in the area. Hazard ID and Risk Management will be incorporated consistently throughout the program, with a focus on risk management for leaders and guides in adventure tourism work.



Rock Climbing

This course is designed for beginner and intermediate climbers looking to learn the fundamentals of how to safely rock climb in the outdoors. This course is taught by internationally certified Rock-Climbing Guides and will take place in area students can easily access again once the program is complete.

Days 1 and 2 will focus on developing the required skills to climb in a top rope climbing environment and to function as a well-trained 2nd to a lead climber. Days 3-5 will focus on developing students' ability to progress into competent lead climbers which will include anchor construction and cleaning as well as the skills required to choose and lead routes competently. Again, consistent focus on Hazard ID, and related risk management will be a key focus each day, as well as ideas and tactics for prospective leaders and Guides while managing groups in outdoor rock terrain.

Mountaineering Wapta Icefields Expedition

Similar to the Whitewater Expedition, students will be expected to take a leadership role akin to what a Mountain Guide would be expected of. Students will take an active role in route planning, navigation, risk management and cooking.

Some of the key learning objectives will be an early morning peak ascent, glacier navigation/rescue training and group management. Crevasse rescue, as well as semi-technical climbing systems will all be incorporated throughout the expedition. This expedition will serve as a culmination of most learning experiences from the first year of the Outdoor Adventure Guide Diploma Program.

Internship

Students enrolled in the Outdoor Adventure Guide Diploma Program will be required to take part in either a winter or summer internship related to their studies. Students who arrive as part of the November intake will take part in an internship at a Banff ski resort as a professional ski/snowboard instructor or ski patroller.

Students who arrive in the January intake will do a summer internship as either an assistant hiking guide, white water canoe guide or white-water raft guide in the province of Alberta.

Year 2 Curriculum

Canadian Ski Instructor Alliance / Canada Association of Snowboard Instructors Level 3 Training

This course will build on the training and certifications established during the first year of the Outdoor Adventure Guide Diploma Program. Students will have the opportunity to train towards the advanced CSIA/CASI Level 3 certification. This training is highly technical, and a successful candidate would be able to find suitable work at virtually any ski resort in North America.

Wilderness First Responder Bridge

This course is an extension of the 40 hours Wilderness Advanced First Aid and is an essential certification required to work in Alberta's outdoor adventure industry. The coursework is focused on teaching emergency first aid in a wilderness context. Students will learn to administer life-saving drugs, care for wounds, stabilize broken bones /joints, use proper scene management as well as coordinating with emergency first responders (i.e. SAR, Parks Canada, Alberta Parks).



Avalanche Canada Safety Training 2

This course serves as an intermediate skills course related to travelling safely in avalanche terrain. This course is focused on the techniques, the understanding of snow science and skiing abilities required to backcountry ski/snowboard in complex avalanche terrain.

Operating as a guide in the Alberta Rockies requires special training to avalanche safety. Students will study the science of how snow packs form and avalanches occur. The students will also venture into the backcountry with ACMG mountain guides to evaluate the snowpack in person, practice rescue drills and become familiarized with, industry standard, avalanche safety equipment.

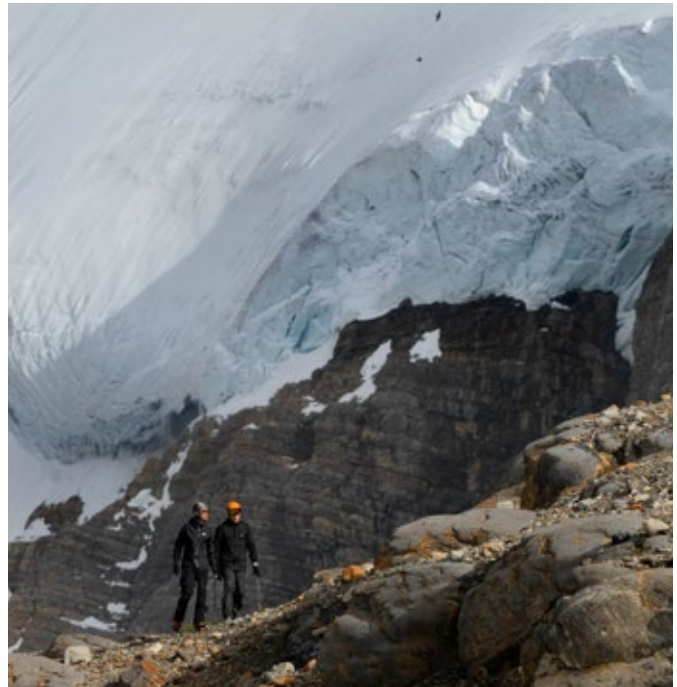
Canadian Avalanche Association - Operations Level 1

The Canadian Avalanche Association Operations Level 1 course is an intensive technical course that combines 40% theory, and 60% practical application and field work. Prerequisites for this course include Avalanche Safety 1 & 2. Upon completion, this course will give students the knowledge of a wide variety of essential skills related to avalanches and how they are formed, search and rescue, as well as risk management when entering avalanche terrain. This course goes well above and beyond the prerequisites for ski instructor or ski patroller, but is necessary for anyone pursuing a job in ski guiding, ski resort avalanche operations, or recreational avalanche course instruction.

The goals of the course and learning objectives are as follows: State of the nature of avalanches, avalanche hazards, classification of avalanche terrain, properties of mountain snowpack, describe, collect and interpret weather and avalanche data & conduct large scale avalanche search and rescue.

Indigenous Studies 2

This course is designed to build on the learning experiences from the first year of the Outdoor Adventure Guide Diploma Program. Students will explore the cultural heritage and role of Alberta's indigenous peoples in shaping the outdoor adventure industry. The course work will explore subjects related to cultural heritage, traditional medicines, indigenous guiding practices, land treaties as well as provide context for contemporary indigenous societies. This coursework is essential to developing well-rounded, informative guides who have a respect for conservation and cultural heritage. Students will be expected to marry these learning experiences with their new skills in film & photography to create pieces that touch on themes related to their indigenous studies programming.



Wilderness Film & Photography 2

Increasingly employers in the outdoor adventure industry are relying on their guides to improve guest experience via photography and film. This course will focus on several key subjects: introduction to equipment, editing, print advertisement, story building and brand management via digital marketing.

Building on skills learned in the Outdoor Adventure Guide Diploma Program Year 1, students will be tasked with developing a brand related to the outdoor adventure industry. Students will be expected to use their learned skills to create both print and film advertising campaigns for their respective brands. Students will be expected to create an experiential piece that focuses on themes related to conservation, cultural history, climate change and the future of the outdoor adventure industry.

Graduates of this program will be able to apply their skills towards supporting outdoor adventure companies they work for as well as support their own entrepreneurial pursuits in the industry.

Risk Management & Guiding Leadership

As students continue to challenge themselves more progressively in the outdoors it's important to be continually explore new risk management and guiding techniques that can be applied to other parts of the coursework and practicums. The purpose of this course is to develop good risk management and leadership practices in a variety of outdoor adventure contexts. Students will learn from a variety of professional guides on different types of strategies to employ based on environmental factors, group dynamics, experience level of guests, gear and terrain.

This course will stress the importance of safety and risk management as well as develop techniques on how to apply their learning to different aspects of the program.



Parks Canada Management

This course is designed to give students a strong understanding of the history, goals, challenges and future of Canada's national parks system in western Canada. Canada's mountain national parks are getting busier every year as the outdoor adventure industry grows in Canada. Therefore, it's important for graduates who begin careers in or near national parks have a firm understand of how Parks Canada operates. Students will explore subjects related to the history of Parks Canada, fire & vegetation management, visitor safety, wildlife management, ecology and managing conservation in the context of a growing outdoor adventure industry. This course is a prerequisite for the more immersive Parks Canada Conservation Leadership course offered in the spring semester.

Advanced Ski Mountaineering

This course will be taught in concert with the Avalanche Safety Training 2 and Canadian Avalanche Operations Level 1. The purpose of this course will be to apply learned backcountry skiing skills, rock climbing and mountaineering skills in complex mountain terrain while paying special attention to group management, route planning, rope work and avalanche risk mitigation. Students on this course will learn the foundations of what it takes to apply avalanche related theory to a backcountry ski guiding context. This course will be administered by fully certified, Association of Canadian Mountain Guides, instructors with the goal of setting students up to pursue a career as a professional mountain guide.



Ski Mountaineering Expedition

This student guided, ACMG supervised, expedition will give students the opportunity to put all learned ski and mountaineering skills to use in a highly complex, glaciated, multi-day expedition on the Wapta Icefields near Lake Louise, AB.

Students will be responsible for planning, packing and leading the expedition as they would as if they were a fully certified ACMG or CGSA guide. Students will be expected to be fully prepared with weather data, snow data and route plans. Students will be expected to make good decisions and defend those decisions to ACMG mountain guides as the group traverses from backcountry hut to hut along the Wapta Glacier.

Successful completion of this course combined with a recommendation from Timberline Academy and an ACMG guide should qualify a graduate to enter the ACMG or CGSA ski guide training early the following winter.



Parks Canada Conservation Leadership Program

This intensive course will provide students the theoretical and practical experience to transition into employment with Parks Canada. This course will be taught by a variety of senior Parks Canada employees across multiple departments in Banff National Park. Students will explore key subjects related to leadership in the context of conservation as it pertains to the past, present and future of Canada's mountain national parks.

Students will use their previous two years of experience in Banff National Park to develop a team conservation initiative to collaborate with Parks Canada on.

Examples of this could include:

- supporting the fisheries team in eliminating Whirling Disease
- tracking wildlife movement and recording data with the wildlife management team
- helping to mitigate forest fires risk by clearing deadfall in high risk forested areas

While this course does have a strong element of volunteerism, the goal is to leverage this experience into meaningful work after graduation with Parks Canada.

Internship/Practicum

Depending on what internship/practicum students took during the first year of the Outdoor Adventure Guide Diploma Program they will need to complete a second winter or summer based internship. Students seeking a winter internship will be able to work as professional ski/snowboard instructors or ski patrollers in Banff. Students seeking summer internship will be able to work as assistant hiking guides, whitewater canoe/raft guides as well as multiple jobs within Parks Canada.