

Adventure Expeditions and Interpretive Leadership

A Two-Year Ontario College Diploma with Co-operative Education Endorsement

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The Program

The Adventure Expeditions and Interpretive Leadership Co-op program, leading to an Ontario College Diploma, provides the training, practical skills and eco-tourism industry experience to prepare graduates for work locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally as Interpretive Naturalist leaders.

The Content

Students will develop knowledge and skills in a variety of areas related to this industry. This will include marketing, business, communication strategies and media, ecological practices and principles, flora and fauna, geology, group assistance and guiding, environmental interpretation and education, professional ethics, management of national and heritage of natural areas, interpretive techniques and wilderness first aid. Graduates of this program will have the ability to develop, operate and manage attractions, resorts, activities, trails, and interpretive projects. Graduates will be able to design, deliver, and evaluate meaningful interpretive programs for a variety of audiences. They will be prepared to begin their careers as leaders within the eco-tourism industry.

The Outcomes

Graduates of the program will be able to pursue full-time careers in the field of Natural History, Adventure Program Development, Environmental Research and Attraction Development. Globally, there is an increasing demand for high value individual and group activities that foster an intense level of excitement enveloped in an environment that specializes in authentic learning experiences. These experiences are hands-on, participatory, active and enthusiastic and respect ecological principles in the natural surroundings.

Work Terms

This two-year diploma program is delivered in an accelerated format over four continuous semesters. Students begin the program in September and complete the following December, sixteen months later. Two semesters of academic work are followed by one co-op semester and then one final academic semester.

Skills Levels

Semester 1

- Explain environmental issues pertaining to ecological and conservation concepts and techniques
- Identify wildlife in their geographical locales
- Explain how to maintain ecosystems to live sustainably
- Explain sustainability practices

Semester 2

- Apply first aid in remote locations
- Provide promotional materials for a workplace
- Plan, organize and implement strategies for business management
- Effectively guide groups in an interpretive manner in nature and natural settings
- Identify specific flora and fauna
- Interpret current legislation and protection acts

Semester 3

- Prepare exhibits and conduct planned group activities with a variety of aides
- Present themselves as a leader and an advocate
- Produce documents that are professional and appropriate for the workplace
- Provide excellent customer service to their clients while using sound judgment and ethics
- Interpret and make maps and GPS/GIS
- Develop and deliver their own interpretive programs

Sample Co-op Progression Chart:

Fall Intake			
	Sept - Dec	Jan - Apr	May - Aug.
Year 1	Acad. 1	Acad. 2	Work Term
	Sept - Dec		
Year 2	Acad. 3		

Course Outline

For the official Degree Audit, please see Registrar's Office

Level 1 – Take all of the following Mandatory Courses

Gen. Ed. – Take a 3 credit Gen. Ed. elective course

WRIT-1042	Reason & Writing I – Tourism & Hosp.
MKTG-1083	Marketing & Market Research Basics
ENVR-1029	Wildlife of North America
ECOL-1003	Ecology and Conservation
ENVR-1030	Environmental Education
ENVR-1031	Sustainability Practices
TOUR-1006	Adv. Exp. I – The North Shore

Level 2 – Take all of the following Mandatory Courses

Gen. Ed. – Take a 3 credit Gen. Ed. elective course

HLTH-3042	Wilderness & Remote First Aid
MKTG-3038	Marketing II
BUSI-3036	Business Strategies & Corp. Partnerships
TOUR-3002	Group Assistance & Guiding
HORT-3025	Flora & Fauna
LAWS-3054	Legislation & Protection Acts
TOUR-3003	Adv. Exp. II – Winter Camping
COOP-1020	Co-op Ed. Employment Prep

Level 3 – Take all of the following Mandatory Courses

Gen. Ed. – Take a 3 credit Gen. Ed. elective course

ENVR-5013	Env. Interpretation/Interpretive Skills
MGMT-5076	Advocacy & Leadership
COMM-5023	Comm. II – Grant Research & Proposals
BSCI-5008	Client Services & Prof. Ethics
GEOL-3002	Intro Geology, Cartography, GPS/GIS
TOUR-5002	Interpretative Naturalist (on-line)
TOUR-5001	Adv. Exp. III – Canoeing & Kayaking

Program Requirements:

- Take three 3-credit General Education (Gen.Ed.) elective courses
- Program Residency

Students must complete a minimum of 20 credits in this program at Fanshawe College to meet the Program Residency requirement and graduate from this program.



Why Should You Hire a Co-op Student?

Many employers feel today's graduates have no concept of the "real" world of work; we are providing this experience in Co-operative Education. Any job that gives the student related background in your business would be suitable.

Eligible employers can claim a tax credit for each qualifying work placement for up to \$3000.

Co-operative Education students are ultimately looking ahead to careers in businesses such as yours. For this reason they are not expecting to simply put in time on the job, but are eager to get involved and make a worthwhile contribution. Participation in co-operative education also gives the employer the opportunity to try out a student's capabilities without obligation or commitment to permanent employment.

This work oriented educational system integrates classroom study and paid, on-the-job work experience, by alternating periods in College with periods of employment by co-operating organizations.

The working experience will ideally increase in difficulty and responsibility as the student progresses academically. However, the College realizes it is often difficult in practice to do this.

It is essential that the work experience be a normal one; that the student be treated like a regular company employee so that a realistic picture of the working environment in that field may be obtained. Perhaps most important is what students gain from the working experience, i.e. an attitude for success and the ability to get along with co-workers at all levels.