

Outdoor Education Major

The Bachelor of Science with a major in Outdoor Education (OE) combines elements of adventure education and environmental education into one unique program of study. Offering a strong emphasis in outdoor skills, leadership training, and environmental knowledge, students learn to teach adventure activities, team building, and environmental awareness in the context of an outdoor setting and from a biblical worldview. The Outdoor Education curriculum is designed to give students the skills, knowledge, and training necessary to both facilitate personal growth and interpret the natural environment. Students can choose a concentration in Outdoor Leadership and Adventure Education or Environmental Education and Interpretation or complete a Special Emphasis Concentration.

Why Study Outdoor Education at Montreat College?

Leadership Development Curriculum

Leadership concepts and skills are taught throughout the Outdoor Education curriculum. The OE major and concentrations emphasize preparation for professional roles in the field. Students are trained in Outdoor Leadership theory and practice. Montreat College's OE program emphasizes developing students to become outdoor leaders who are competent in using outdoor environments for education and ministry. Through numerous courses and field experiences, students are prepared to design, implement, and administer outdoor programs that are safe, challenging, and enjoyable. Supported by a liberal arts foundation, students will use their knowledge of the environment, leadership, and ministry preparation to point others to Christ.

The campus is located among mountainous wilderness areas. Montreat College is adjacent to Pisgah National Forest, close to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and within a two-hour drive of numerous climbing locations, four major wilderness areas, and several rivers with whitewater rated up to Class V. Montreat College is also within a 14-mile hike or bike ride of Mt. Mitchell, the highest peak east of the Mississippi River.

The faculty brings a diversity of training and depth of experience.

Professors are passionate about engaging their students and challenging them to be professional, well-rounded educators. They prioritize the integration of faith and learning in classroom and the importance of field experiences. Professors have brought experience from the National Outdoor Leadership School, Outward Bound, American Mountain Guides Association, the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, the North American Association for Environmental Education, Association for Outdoor Recreation and Education, Christian Adventure Association, Association for Experiential Education, Christian Camping International, Christian Camp and Conference Association, the American Canoe Association, the Wilderness Education Association, and the National Association for Interpretation. Professors remain current through

active memberships. Students can expect their Outdoor Education professors to be beside them, guiding them and challenging them to reach their full potential both inside and outside the classroom.

Career opportunities are abundant. Graduates in Outdoor Education from Montreat College go on to a variety of careers in outdoor, adventure, and environmental education programs; camps and conference centers; mission organizations; national and state parks; churches and church-related youth organizations; expedition programs such as the National Outdoor Leadership School, Wilderness Education Association, and Outward Bound; environmental organizations; nature centers; outdoor science programs; and environmental interpretation centers. Certification programs are available in several different areas. Many graduates report that whatever their career choice, that the interpersonal skills, training in teaching, leadership, and discipleship experiences they gained through the OE program prepared them for all aspects of their lives.

Opportunities for Leadership/Teaching Experience. The Outdoor Education program provides practical opportunities to equip students with technical skills and leadership/teaching experience. The department works directly with outreach programs, such as the Team and Leadership Center (TLC). The TLC utilizes challenge course facilities to develop team-building strategies and to strengthen the concept of community through experience-based learning. The TLC is housed on the Black Mountain Campus and includes a high team's course, climbing wall and low initiatives course. The hands-on experiences that OE students gain build confidence and provide much needed experience to prepare for Outdoor Careers.

Requirements for a Major in Outdoor Education

√ Degree Component

- ___ Completion of the General Education Core (51* credits)
 - BL 101 and ES 150 or BL 102 are recommended in the Gen-Ed as prerequisites to ES courses;
 - HS 101 & HS 102 are recommended in the Gen-Ed as prerequisites to IS 202;
 - IS 202 and PY 201 or PY 202 are recommended in the Gen-Ed
- ___ Completion of the General Education Competencies
- ___ Completion of the Outdoor Education Major Core (47 credits)
 - *Completion of OE 180 Discovery in the first year in OE major (1 credit doubles in Gen-Ed)
 - Completion of an outdoor activity (OE 230, 231, 233, 235, 237, 238) in the first year in OE major
 - Two credits count for the General Education PE requirements
- ___ Completion of an Outdoor Education Major Concentration (17-19 credits)
- ___ Completion of required electives to bring total up to 120 credits (~3-4)
- ___ Completion of 33 credits at the 300-level or above
- ___ Completion of Outdoor Education Dept. Comprehensive Exit Exam (included in OE 491)
- ___ Completion of 120 credit hours with a minimum GPA of 2.0 (two terms and 32 credit hours must be completed at Montreat College)

*OE 310 in the major can count toward Gen-Ed oral expression competency.

NOTE: Students who wish to add an Environmental Science minor will complete ES 150 and an additional 1 credit in BL or ES courses.

NOTE: Students who double major in Outdoor Education and Outdoor Ministry can count their field experience (OE/OM 241) and internship (OE/OM 441) credits toward both majors.

Outdoor Education Major Core (47 credits)

- ES 201 Field Natural History I, II (2)
- ES 202 Field Natural History II (2)
- ES 460 Field Studies (twice) (1/1)
- IS 302 Philosophy of Leadership (3)
- IS 310 Pre-Internship (1)
- OE 103 Survey of Outdoor Education I (3)
- OE 111 Facilitating Outdoor Education Experiences (3)
- OE 170 Wilderness First Aid (1)
- OE 180 Discovery Wilderness Expedition (4) (1st Year Requirement)
- OE/OM 241 Outdoor Education Field Experience (twice) (1/1)
- OE 306 Leadership & Group Dynamics (3)
- OE 310 Principles of Environmental Interpretation (3)
- OE 340 OE Teaching Methods & Curriculum Development (4)
- OE 404 Administration & Management of OE (4)
- OE/OM 441 Internship in Outdoor Education (3)
- OE 462 Current Issues in Outdoor Education (3)
- OE 491 Senior Seminar (1)
- OM 300 Outdoor and Camp Programming (3) (OM 200 pre-req. waived)

Choose from three Outdoor Education Concentrations:

- Environmental Education and Interpretation (18 credits)
- Outdoor Leadership and Adventure Education (17-19 credits)
- Special Emphasis (minimum 18 credits)

Environmental Education and Interpretation Concentration (18 credits)

This concentration focuses on developing the professional Environmental Educator and Environmental Interpreter. The two main foci of this concentration include increasing environmental knowledge and mastering educational and interpretive techniques. The concentration includes all the requirements to be certified as a NC Environmental Educator and an Environmental Interpreter through the National Association of Interpretation.

- ES 206 Ecology (4)
- OE 220 Survey of Environmental Education Curricula (3)
- OE 305 Environmental Policy & Law (3)
- ES 301 Physical & Environmental Geography (4)
- ES 305 American Ecosystems (4)

Four Year Plan: Bachelor of Science in Outdoor Education with a Concentration in Environmental Education/Interpretation			
Freshman Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
IS 102 Foundations of Faith and Learning	2	BB 102 Survey of New Testament	3
BB 101 Survey of Old Testament	3	EN 102 English Composition II	3
EN 101 English Composition	3	OE 111 Facilitating Outdoor Ed Experiences	3
OE 103 Survey of Outdoor Education I	3	BL 102 Survey of Biological Principles II	4
BL 101 Survey of Biological Principles I	4	OE 170 Wilderness First Aid	1
OE 230, 231, 233, 235, 237, 238	1		
	16		15
Freshman Summer			
OE 180 Discovery Wilderness Expedition <i>(All OE majors must complete OE 180 within first year at Montreat College)</i>			2-4
Sophomore Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
ES 201 Field Natural History I	2	ES 202 Field Natural History II	2
Gen-Ed Humanities (IS 202 Recommended)	3	OE 220 Survey of Environmental Education Curriculum	3
OE 306 Leadership and Group Dynamics	3	OE 241 Outdoor Education Field Experience	11
OE 340 Teaching Methods for OE	4	HS 102 History of World Civilization II	3
HS 101 History of World Civilization I	3	CS 102 Computer Applications and Concepts	3
OE 241 Outdoor Education Field Experience	1		
	16		12
<i>OE 241 Field Experiences must be completed before the student does his/her internship</i>			
Junior Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
OE 310 Principles of Environmental Interpretation	3	IS 302 Philosophy of Leadership	3
Gen-Ed Mathematics	3	OM 300 Outdoor Camp and Programming	3
ES 206 Ecology	4	ES 301 Physical and Environmental Geography	4
ES 460 Field Studies	1	ES 460 Field Studies	1
IS 310 Pre-Internship	1	Gen-Ed Literature	3
	12		14
<i>Completion of the General Education competencies by the end of the junior year.</i>			
Junior Summer			
OE 441 Internship (3)/ ES 305 American Ecosystems (4)			7
Senior Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
OE 404 Admin & Management of OE	4	OE 462 Current Issues in OE	3
IS 461 Seminar on Faith and Life	2	OE 491 Senior Seminar	1
Gen-Ed Humanities	3	Gen-Ed Social Science	3
Elective	3	OE 305 Environmental Policy and Law	3
		Gen-Ed Humanities	3
	12		13
<i>Completion of 33 credits at the 300-level or above.</i>			
<i>Completion of the OE Comprehensive Exit Exam (embedded in OE 491) by the end of the Senior Year.</i>			
Total hours required for degree:			120

*See General Education for optional course offerings

Outdoor Leadership and Adventure Education Concentration (17-19 credits)

This concentration focuses on developing the aspiring Outdoor Leader/Adventure Educator with essential skills and practical experience. Students will be prepared to make sound decisions and demonstrate effective risk management in a variety of outdoor environments.

- OE 182 Wilderness Journey (2-4)
- OE 191 Outdoor Living Skills I (2)*
- OE 192 Outdoor Living Skills II (2)*
- OE 210 Challenge Course Facilitation (3)
- OE 312 Outdoor Programming/Leadership: Expedition Mgmt. (4)

Choose one of the following three courses:

- OE 311 Outdoor Programming/Leadership: Kayaking (4)
- OE 313 Outdoor Programming/Leadership: Rock Climbing (4)
- OE 314 Outdoor Programming/Leadership: Canoeing (4)

Wilderness First Responder Certification is required for this concentration

*Transfer students may register for OE 191, OE 192 without the OE 180 pre-requisite

Four Year Plan: Bachelor of Science in Outdoor Education with a Concentration in Outdoor Leadership and Adventure Education

Freshman Year			
Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
IS 102 Foundations of Faith and Learning	2	BB 102 Survey of New Testament	3
BB 101 Survey of Old Testament	3	EN 102 English Composition II	3
EN 101 English Composition	3	OE 111 Facilitating Outdoor Ed Experiences	3
OE 103 Survey of Outdoor Education I	3	BL 102 Survey of Biological Principles II or ES 150	4
BL 101 Survey of Biological Principles I	4	OE 241 Outdoor Education Field Experience	1
		OE 230, 231, 233, 235, 237, 238	1
		OE 170 Wilderness First Aid	1
	15		16
Freshman Summer			
OE 180 Discovery Wilderness Expedition (<i>All OE majors must complete OE 180 within first year at Montreat College</i>)			2 - 4
Sophomore Year			
Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
ES 201 Field Natural History I	2	ES 202 Field Natural History II	2
OE 306 Leadership and Group Dynamics	3	OE 210 Challenge Course Facilitation	3
OE 191 Outdoor Living Skills I	2	OE 192 Outdoor Living Skills II	2
OE 340 Teaching Methods for OE	4	HS 102 History of World Civilization II	3
HS 101 History of World Civilization I	3	CS 102 Computer Applications and Concepts	3
OE 241 Outdoor Education Field Experience	1		
	15		13
<i>OE 241 Field Experiences must be completed before the student does his/her internship</i>			
Junior Year			
Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
OE 310 Principles of Environmental Interpretation	3	Immersion Semester Option ¹	
Gen-Ed Mathematics	3	IS 302 Philosophy of Leadership	3
Gen-Ed Humanities (IS 202 recommended)	3	OM 300 Outdoor Camp and Programming	3
IS 310 Pre-Internship	1	OE 312 Expedition Management (4)	4
ES 460 Field Studies	1	Gen-Ed Literature	3
OE 311, 313, OR 314 Rockclimbing/Kayaking/Canoeing Skills	4	ES 460 Field Studies	1
	15		14
<i>Completion of the General Education competencies and Wilderness First Responder Certification by the end of the junior year.</i>			
Junior Summer			
OE 441 Internship			3
Senior Year			
Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
OE 404 Admin & Management of OE	4	OE 462 Current Issues in OE	3
Elective	1	OE 491 Senior Seminar	1
OE 182 Wilderness Journey	2	Gen-Ed Humanities	3
Gen-Ed Humanities	3	IS 461 Seminar on Faith and Life	2
Gen-Ed Social Science	3	Elective	3
	13		13
<i>Completion of 33 credits at the 300-level or above.</i>			
<i>Completion of the OE Comprehensive Exit Exam (embedded in OE 491) by the end of the Senior Year.</i>			
Total hours required for degree:			120

¹ Immersion Semester: Wilderness Leadership Certificate

*See General Education for optional course offerings

Special Emphasis Concentration (minimum 18 credits)

Students may have a specialized interest other than the two concentrations described. Students may transfer a set of courses from other institutions, study abroad and certification programs (e.g., Au Sable Institute, Summit Adventure), or complete courses in other departments at Montreat College to fulfill the requirements for this concentration. The special emphasis concentration will be designed by the student in conjunction with the student's faculty advisor. The advisor and the Outdoor Education faculty must approve a formal proposal of the concentration emphasis by the end of the student's sophomore year. **Note:** Transfer students must develop and get approval for the special emphasis concentration during their first semester of enrollment.

Choose from the following or add courses from other institutions:

- OE 182 Wilderness Journey (2)
- OM 200 Introduction to Christian Camping & Outdoor Ministry (3)
- OE 210 Challenge Course Facilitation (3)
- OE 220 Survey of Environmental Education Curricula (3)
- OE 225 Conference and Event Planning (1-3)
- OE 191 Outdoor Living Skills I (2)
- OE 192 Outdoor Living Skills II (2)
- OE 300 Survey of Adventure-Based Counseling (3)
- OE 305 Environmental Policy & Law (3)
- OE 311 Outdoor Programming/Leadership: Kayaking (4)
- OE 312 Outdoor Programming/Leadership: Expedition Mgmt. (4)
- OE 313 Outdoor Programming/Leadership: Rock Climbing (4)
- OE 314 Outdoor Programming/Leadership: Canoeing (4)
- OE 341 Outdoor Education Practicum (1-3)
- OE 480 Special Topics (1-6)
- BL 205 Animal Diversity and Ecology (4)
- BL 215 Plant Diversity and Ecology (4)
- ES 206 Ecology (4)
- ES 301 Physical & Environmental Geography (4)
- ES 305 American Ecosystems (4)
- ES 315 Freshwater Ecosystems (4)

Outdoor Education Minor

Requirements for an Outdoor Education Minor (20 credits)

A minimum of six credits must be at the 300-level or above

Outdoor Education Courses (12 hours)

Choose one course from the following:

- OE 103 Survey of Outdoor Education I (3) **OR**
- OE 111 Facilitating Outdoor Education Experiences

Choose 9 hours from the following:

- IS 302 Philosophy of Leadership (3)

Only one of these courses:

- OE 180 Discovery Wilderness Expedition (4) **OR**
- OE 182 Wilderness Journey (2-4)
- OE 111 Facilitating Outdoor Education Experiences (3)
- OE 170 Wilderness First Aid (1)
- OE 191 Outdoor Living Skills I (2)
- OE 192 Outdoor Living Skills II (2)
- OE 210 Challenge Course Facilitation (3)
- OE 220 Survey of Environmental Education Curricula (3)
- OE 300 Survey of Adventure-Based Counseling (3)
- OE 305 Environmental Policy & Law (3)
- OE 306 Leadership & Group Dynamics (3)
- OE 310 Principles of Environmental Interpretation (3)
- OE 311 Outdoor Programming/Leadership: Kayaking (4)
- OE 312 Outdoor Programming/Leadership: Expedition Mgmt. (4)
- OE 313 Outdoor Programming/Leadership: Rock Climb (4)
- OE 314 Outdoor Programming/Leadership: Canoeing (4)
- OE 340 Teaching Method/Curriculum Development in OE (4)
- OE 341 Outdoor Education Practicum (1-3)
- OE 404 Administration/Management of OE (4)
- OE 441 Internship (3)
- OE 462 Current Issues in Outdoor Education (3)
- OE 480 Special Topics (1-6)
- OM 200 Introduction to Christian Camping & Outdoor Ministry (3)
- OM 300 Outdoor and Camp Programming (3)

Environmental Science Courses (8 hours)

- ES 206 Ecology (4)

Choose 4 hours from the following:

- BL 205 Animal Diversity and Ecology (4)
- BL 215 Plant Diversity and Ecology (4)
- ES 201-202 Field Natural History I, II (2, 2)
- ES 301 Physical & Environmental Geography (4)

ES 305 American Ecosystems (4)
ES 315 Freshwater Ecosystems (4)
ES 460 Field Studies (1-4)