



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Haub School of Environment
and Natural Resources

Outdoor Recreation and
Tourism Management

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Outdoor Guide Certification

Non-Credit, Self-paced

Online

Dates vary

Instructor contact information:

Instructor:

Email:

Phone number:

Office hours and/or open-door policy: I will be checking email throughout the day M-F. Expect a response within approximately three hours or less. I am available to Skype, Zoom, or FaceTime with you anytime throughout M-F. Please email me to schedule a meeting time. I will be checking in with students throughout the course to ensure they are on track.

Course prerequisites, co-requisites, enrollment restrictions: There are no prerequisites for the course. Though, for the certification to be valid, students must complete and maintain a form of first aid training such as Basic First Aid/CPR, Wilderness First Aid, Wilderness First Responder, or higher. You may complete this requirement either prior to or after the Outdoor Guide course. You must maintain your first aid training certification for the Outdoor Guide Certification to be valid. Other medical certifications may be accepted upon review. Students are responsible for having alternative forms of medical certifications examined by the instructor to verify whether they meet requirements.

Course Description: The course is an online training certification offered through the University of Wyoming Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Program.

The UW Outdoor Guide Certification course is an online, standardized, competency-based training program, designed to provide aspiring or established guides the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in the industry, regardless of their area of outdoor expertise. If you are considering becoming or growing as a rock climbing,

rafting, hunting, wildlife viewing, fishing, cycling, hiking, snowmobiling, ATVing, horseback riding, skiing, paddle sports (or any other form of outdoor guide) this training is designed for you.

The course contains videos from industry experts, readings, discussions, knowledge checks, and short assignments. It is self-paced and flexible and should take approximately 32 hours to complete depending on self-pacing. Outdoor guide employers can use this course to supplement or enhance any internal training program already offered. Competency areas include 1) becoming a more effective outdoor educator, 2) improving naturalist skills, and 3) developing professional skills.

Upon successful completion, students receive an outdoor guide certification from the University of Wyoming, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Program. This certification does not expire.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, students will have the knowledge to lead others in the outdoors safely and successfully. Students will be able to...

- Evaluate, create, and define traits of an effective guide and what makes for a successful trip
- Facilitate an outdoor learning experience that promotes clients' learning, engagement, and helps them develop both meaning and connection
- Interpret the landscape and critically evaluate humans' (especially their own) relationship with the environment
- Assess and promote practices that protect land, participants, and the guide

Special course notes and exclusions: This course does not provide students with discipline-specific knowledge such as guiding extended wilderness backpacking trips, rock climbing, rafting, or mountaineering. We strongly encourage aspiring guides to obtain experience, training, and certifications in specific disciplines if they intend to guide in more advanced or technical outdoor disciplines.

In addition, this course does not provide guides with a Wyoming Professional Guide License for guiding big and trophy game clients. Please see the [Wyoming Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides](#) website for more information on becoming a state licensed professional big and trophy game guide.

Finally, this course does not provide students with a permit or permission to guide clients on land they do not have permission to guide clients on. Outdoor guides must have and maintain permission (often in the form of a permit) to guide clients on federal, state, private, or sovereign tribal land. It is up to you to research, obtain, and maintain all the necessary permits for guiding on all the lands you guide on.

Required texts, readings, and special tools or materials: Students do not need to purchase any additional materials for the course. All required readings/tools/etc. are included. Students are required to have a functioning computer with speakers and an internet connection that will allow them to stream videos.

Students are required to watch the interactive videos, pass multiple-choice quizzes, participate in discussions, and complete assignments and activities. Additional recommended resources are listed at the end of each module. These are simply suggestions and are not required.

Required Participation Outside of Class Meetings: There are no required meetings outside of the course. One goal for the course was to maintain flexibility to accommodate the demanding schedules of guides.

Timelines: The online course is self-paced. Students will have 6 weeks to complete the course. If the course is not completed within this time frame, the student will need to register for a new course at their expense.

Grading Scale and Grading Policies: The course is pass fail. All students' work, including discussions, assignments, and activities will be assessed by the instructor. Quizzes (also known as "checkpoints") will be automatically graded. In order to proceed to the next section, students must pass the quizzes with a score of roughly 70% or higher.

Enrollment information:

Enroll online at: <https://www.uwyo.edu/haub/academics/professional-applied-exps/outdoor-guide-certification/ogc-new.html>

Course Modules:

Modules	Topics	Description	Activities
Welcome to Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course objectives• Layout• How to navigate course	Getting started	Videos, readings, discussion, & an assignment
Defining Quality in Guiding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What Makes for a Good Guide/ Good Trip• Starting Trip	Think critically about what makes for a good guide/trip & defining success	Videos, readings, discussions, & assignments
Interpretation & Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication Skills• Interpretation• Teaching• Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	Promote client's learning, engagement, & help them develop both meaning & connection	Videos, readings, discussion, quizzes & assignment
Naturalist Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Track and Sign• Plants/Animals/Taxonomy• Humans & the Environment	Interpret the landscape & critically evaluate human's relationship with the environment	Videos, readings, discussions, assignments, quizzes & activities
Navigation Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compass skills• Map skills	Ensure safety by understanding how to navigate	Videos & readings
Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land Management Agencies• Environmental Stewardship• Sustainable Tourism• Risk Management: Decision & Judgement• Permits	Evaluate & promote practices that protect land, participants, & yourself	Videos, readings, discussions, quizzes & assignments
Current Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Varies (ex. how COVID is affecting the guiding industry)	Keep up-to-date on what is going on in the guiding world & see what fellow guides have to say	Discussion