



EXP105108 - TQA Level 1, 5 size value.

## THE COURSE DOCUMENT

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## LEARNING STATEMENT

Outdoor education is about providing challenging learning experiences which engage students in an holistic way. Outdoor activities explicitly use experiences which challenge students in these domains: the physical self, as activities require students to be active at a variety of levels; the mental self, as students are encouraged to think and ask questions; and the emotional self, as students have feelings about, and engage with, the physical and social self in order to understand themselves.

A fundamental aspect of outdoor education is the development of a positive relationship between students and the natural environment where the primary aim is to foster an awareness of the natural environment and build responsibility for its care and conservation. This understanding empowers students to contribute towards achieving an ecologically sustainable world.

Outdoor education provides opportunities for students to participate in active citizenship and contribute to the wider community.

## RATIONALE

Tasmania is acknowledged internationally as a destination for a diverse range of quality outdoor recreation experiences. Outdoor recreation experiences offer Tasmanian students the opportunity to develop a range of personal and interpersonal skills that allow them to relate to, and work more effectively with, others in everyday life and promote career opportunities.

Tasmanian needs young people who understand the physical, social, emotional and spiritual benefits of quality outdoor recreation experiences. Fundamental to exploring a range of outdoor recreation possibilities is developing an awareness of the importance of sustainable practice to help protect our natural environments for future generations.

This course provides an introduction for students wishing to move into areas of employment where there is a requirement for good team workers who have a well-developed sensitivity to the need for responsible and safe action, as well as environmentally sustainable practice. The Defence forces, State Police, Fire and Forestry Departments are examples of employment areas in the public sector that rely on people with the skills and knowledge developed through studying this course.

## PATHWAYS

Students completing Outdoor Experiences may use it as a basis for a wide range of vocational and further education and training options.

Although a student may begin a particular pathway, it is possible to combine with, or move to, other pathways within associated learning areas / employment.

Outdoor Experiences provides an excellent pathway to TQA level 2 Outdoor Education and / or VET Certificate II – Outdoor Recreation. Progressions can then be made to TQA level 3 Outdoor Leadership.

Students may then wish to pursue tertiary level training in the VET sector through to 'diploma' level and / or university studies including bachelor degrees in human movement, sport and outdoor recreation, leisure management, education, business and commerce and applied science in Tasmania and other States.

The vocational pathways include, but are not limited to: guiding, adventure tourism, the natural sciences, defence forces, training academies and registered training organisations in Australia and overseas.

## ACCESS

Critical components of outdoor adventure recreation in this course may limit access for some people.

Group work is fundamental to this course.

Students wishing to do this course should understand the nature of the content and the level of physical activity. They should understand they may be able to do some parts of the course but may not be able to achieve all outcomes.

## RESOURCES

Providers of this course should ensure they are able to meet the requirements of the Department of Education's *Outdoor Education Guidelines*, which are aligned with the *Adventure Activity Standards* when conducting outdoor experiences.

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## COURSE SIZE AND COMPLEXITY

This course has been assessed as having a complexity level of TQA level 1.

At TQA level 1 the student is expected to carry out tasks and activities that draw on a limited range of basic knowledge and skills. The tasks and activities generally have a substantial repetitive aspect to them. Minimum judgement is needed as there are usually very clear rules, guidelines or procedures to be followed. TQA level 1 is an approximate match to current Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE) level 2 courses and VET competencies at this level are often those characteristic of an AQF Certificate I.

This course has a size value of 5 (50 hour design time).

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Outdoor Experiences is designed to foster responsible use of the outdoors for recreational purposes and develop student independence and self-sufficiency.

Through experiences in one or more outdoor recreation activities (typically containing an element of adventure) skills and knowledge will be developed. Outdoor Experiences content provides for progressive and sequential development of the student.

This course has at its core student development in 4 key areas:

- Personal Development
- Social and Interpersonal Development
- Skills and Technical Knowledge
- The Environment

These four are common to the TQA accredited outdoor education courses, TQA levels 1, 2 and 3.

These themes shape the way in which the students will experience and learn sustainable environmental practice, to be effective in groups, communication, problem solving and safety in an outdoor-based adventure environment.

Students undertaking Outdoor Experiences will participate in one or more recreation activities, developing technical skills and using the activities as a means for applying knowledge of theoretical topics through practical situations.

Students will be provided with opportunities to connect with, and reflect on, their own and others' relationship with the environment.

The course must be delivered through predominantly *practical* components. Learning and understanding will be delivered progressively and sequentially through field-based experiences. Learning and developing skills will be delivered in an holistic way.

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## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through studying this course students will:

- develop self-awareness through participation
- develop effective planning skills in / around preparing self for selected activities
- develop decision making processes – listing positives and negatives
- develop introspective personal reflection skills, e.g. reflective thought and debrief questions
- appreciate the importance of encouraging and supporting others
- reflect on group performance
- communicate in specific outdoor environments and conditions
- develop skills to allow for safe and responsible outdoor recreation practice
- apply basic safety management practices to specific outdoor recreation activities
- apply basic navigational techniques during activities
- use and understand terminology associated with activities
- develop basic understanding of weather as it affects outdoor recreation in Tasmania
- apply sustainable practise behaviours during practical activities.

## **COURSE CONTENT**

Students will develop and apply their core learning predominantly through experiences in **one or more** outdoor adventure activities that will be determined by the provider based on situation and resource.

**Students are required to create and maintain an activity logbook.**

**Students must complete 40 hours of practical work.**

For each activity, students will:

- develop technical skills
- use appropriate technology
- understand and apply safety processes.

## **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- prepare and review checklists detailing personal organisational requirements, e.g. equipment, clothing, monetary, transport requirements for specific activities
- reflect on personal decision making before, during and after activities
- contribute to debriefing sessions with perspectives on self-involvement and performance.

## **SOCIAL AND INTERPERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- using group goal processes to achieve outcomes
- using practical experiences to build group relationships (e.g. inclusion, trust, cooperation, collaboration and respecting others)
- communicating information effectively in field-based contexts

## **SKILLS AND TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE**

- identify clothing and equipment necessary and appropriate for outdoor activities
- identify personal and group risks associated with practical activities, strategies for reducing risk
- develop sequential skills in one or more outdoor recreation activity
- the use of basic navigational skills to assist with planning and completing practical activities (e.g. identifying hazards, estimates of distance and time to complete journey)
- identify terminologies associated with activities.

## **THE ENVIRONMENT**

- identify some of the ways in which outdoor activity impacts on the environment.

## ASSESSMENT

Competency based assessment is a form of performance based assessment that measures student ability to demonstrate stated skills and knowledge. For this course two ratings are available: 'competent' or 'not yet competent'. Assessment may be made at any point in the learning program.

Each competency in this course is described by performance indicators. In judging whether a student is competent an assessor will be guided by these indicators but final assessment will be an holistic, on-balance judgement based on validated evidence. The indicators are *not* intended to form a 'check-list' of sub-competencies which must *all* be met in order for a 'competency' rating to be awarded.

Assessment methodologies may include – but are not limited to – written, electronic and oral presentations/discussions, direct assessor observation of learners' skills, and written and/or practical testing.

Assessment instruments/tools need *not* be restricted to any single competency. An assessment instrument may assess more than one competency at a time.

Learners who are assessed as 'not yet competent' are provided with further opportunities to demonstrate competency within the scope of the course's design-time and TQA reporting requirements.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESSES

The following process will be facilitated by the TQA to ensure there is:

- a match between the competencies specified in the course and the skills and knowledge demonstrated by students
- community confidence in the integrity and meaning of the qualification.

**Process** – each course provider will be required to keep assessment records for all students. These will be centrally archived in electronic or paper form by the provider for a period of five (5) years. The TQA reserves the right to conduct an audit of these records at any time during the five year period. The TQA reserves the right to conduct an audit of student activity logbooks. Such evidence of student work would only be required for the academic year in which a student was enrolled in the course. Archive copies would not be required.

## COMPETENCIES

The assessment for the course is based on whether a student can:

1. Use strategies to achieve personal growth through participation in outdoor recreation activities
2. Contribute positively to group-based activities
3. Use skills and knowledge to engage safely in outdoor recreation activities
4. Apply ecologically sustainable practices during outdoor recreation activities.

COMPETENCY	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<b>1. Use strategies to achieve personal growth through participation in outdoor recreation activities.</b>	<p>With support, assistance and guidance, a learner can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ prepare and review checklists detailing personal organisational requirements</li><li>▪ reflect on personal decision making before, during and after activities</li><li>▪ contribute to discussions with perspectives on self-involvement and performance.</li></ul>
<b>2. Contribute positively to group-based activities.</b>	<p>With support, assistance and guidance, a learner can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ contribute to the group achievement of activity goals</li><li>▪ contribute to positive relationships in group activities</li><li>▪ communicate basic information in field-based contexts.</li></ul>
<b>3. Use skills and knowledge to engage safely in outdoor recreation activities.</b>	<p>With support, assistance and guidance, a learner can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ use appropriate clothing and equipment for outdoor activities</li><li>▪ understand personal and group risks associated with practical activities and know strategies for reducing risk</li><li>▪ develop technical skills in one or more outdoor recreation activities</li><li>▪ use basic mapping skills</li><li>▪ know and understand basic terminologies associated with activities.</li></ul>
<b>4. Apply ecologically sustainable practices during outdoor recreation activities.</b>	<p>With support, assistance and guidance, a learner can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ identify the impacts caused by participation in outdoor activities</li><li>▪ use minimal impact practices while participating in outdoor activities.</li></ul>

## QUALIFICATIONS AVAILABLE

Outdoor Experiences (*with the award of*):

PASS

## AWARD REQUIREMENTS

To gain an award in Outdoor Experiences, students need to be deemed competent in all four competencies.

The final award will be a Pass.

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## COURSE EVALUATION

Formal evaluations of the course will be undertaken during the second and fourth years of accreditation. An evaluation report will be provided to the TQA.

The evaluations will focus on identifying any issues with regard to:

- the match between the specified competencies in the course and the skills and knowledge demonstrated by learners
- community confidence in the integrity and meaning of the qualifications
- access, delivery and resources

and, if appropriate, make recommendations regarding changes to the course.

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## COURSE DEVELOPER

Department of Education, Tasmania.

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## ACCREDITATION

The accreditation period for this course is from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2012.

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## VERSION HISTORY

Version 1 – Accredited Version (4 October 2007).

Version 1.a – Clarification of Course Size and Complexity (6 March 2008).