

Outdoor . . . so you want to work in the outdoor industry

The RTM curriculum offers a coordinated set of classes to prepare students for careers in outdoor recreation and outdoor education. The delivery system for outdoor programs is very complicated. RTM alums have held positions as Outdoor Education Directors for schools, National Park Service rangers or supervisors, instructors and managers of adventure education programs like Outward Bound and NOLS, Youth Camp Program Directors or Camp Executive Directors, Wilderness Guide Services, CA State Parks personnel, Zip Line Canopy Tour owners, Therapeutic Rec program staff for at-risk youth, outdoor retail store owners, leadership consultants, and more. Most career tracks begin at the programmatic leadership positions with advancement to managerial leadership.

The RTM program electives in outdoor provide a strong 'program development and leadership basis' for work in a variety of outdoor recreation settings. You **must** take the following electives for this career emphasis pathway. RTM 251, 351, 452, & 6 units of outdoor skill classes. Those 15 units are the minimum required in the Outdoor Recreation Pathway. The department requirement for a minimum of 9 more units to equal 24 total RTM electives can include RTM 452 Lab, RTM 310, other outdoor skill classes, or other RTM elective classes from other career Pathways.

RTM 151 A-H and RTM 265 & 267/L and RTM 452L. Technical Skill Classes (6 units minimum). The outdoor recreation skill classes are a great way to develop technical skills in major outdoor pursuits. The goal is always developing safety knowledge and skills and environmental impact skills consistent with the Leave No Trace program. The 151 A-H classes focus on backcountry skills whereas 265 (Wakeboarding) and 267/L (Sailing) focus on lake aquatic skills. RTM 452L is an experiential application of outdoor leadership safety skills. You must take at least 6 units toward your 15 required outdoor pathway electives package, but take advantage of the opportunity to take more of these units while at CSUN. You will never get better value training (quality combined with cost) after you leave CSUN. Join us for Backpacking (151A), Rock Climbing (151B), Winter Mountaineering (151C), Paddling (151D), Survival (151F), Ropes Course (151G), Caving (151H). Teaching assistant opportunities are also available to work with faculty in management of field classes. (Fall and Spring Offerings)

RTM 251 Recreation and the Natural Environment (3 units): a broad introduction to the historical development of parks and wilderness in the American culture, environmental issues, outdoor recreation conflict issues, and land management agencies (who manages land for what purpose – NPS, USFS, BLM, USFWS, and State Parks). (Fall and Spring Offering – also a Lower Division GE for some students)

RTM 351: Outdoor and Environmental Education (3 units): develop your program design and facilitation expertise in programs “in” and “about” the out-of-doors. You will learn interpretation program models used to educate people about the outdoors along with program models focused on personal and group development like residential camping & adventure education in the outdoors. (Fall Offering only)

RTM 452 (&452 Lab) Outdoor Leadership (3 units): expand your expertise as a leader in outdoor programs especially as it relates to safety management and group management for a variety of outdoor settings. (Spring Offering only).

RTM 452 Lab (2 units): the outdoor leadership lab is sometimes offered the same semester in conjunction with RTM 452 and sometimes is offered in a different semester as a unique experiential learning opportunity.

RTM 310 & 310L Adventure Recreation and Human Relations (3 units): this course was designed for the GE package at CSUN and uses the program philosophy of adventure education to explore issues of personal identity and cultural diversity. So it's not really a course about adventure recreation theory – that program model is covered in RTM 351. However, it does have value for observing how adventure can be used in multicultural education and the personal growth dimensions of the course have value for all. (Fall and Spring Offerings)

Remember to maximize your learning in core classes to your desired outdoor career setting or settings: designing an outdoor experience that attains specific goals is the foundation of event and program planning (RTM 202); outdoor program managers tend to do their own marketing and promotions (RTM 303); use an entrepreneurial outdoor concept for your business plan in RTM 304; understand the critical theories of customer service from RTM 314; work seasonal summer jobs; carefully select your Internship opportunity from a great outdoor organization; and the list goes on for maximizing your career pathway.

Looking for career opportunities? See what positions are out there.

This site provides best single source of outdoor jobs listings from federal government agencies:

- <http://www.usajobs.gov>

Here are some other outdoor career job sites for seasonal or career positions.

- <http://jobsclearinghouse.aee.org/>
- <https://www.acacamps.org/staff-professionals/job-center>
- <https://www.coolworks.com/>
- https://www.aore.org/career_center.php
- You can also pursue the big job sites (e.g. indeed.com) and each state will have job listing with the natural resource agencies like state parks and you can also check with specific federal agencies like NPS, USFS, BLM though they are cross listed with usajobs.gov.

The slides from a lecture in RTM 351 Outdoor Education provide some background on career pathways as well. You can hear the lecture/discussion when you take RTM 351. Here is a link to review those lecture notes.

- <http://www.csun.edu/~vcrec004/rtm351/Careers in Outdoor Rec.pdf>
