

Certificate in Outdoor Education

The StFX Certificate in Outdoor Education (COE) is a program for qualified in-service teachers who are interested in developing their capabilities to enact outdoor education practices across the Nova Scotian Public Schools Program P-12. The courses in the COE are designed to enhance teacher's professional skill development in specialized areas of outdoor education, and to enhance the curricular awareness and teaching strategies associated with assessment practices, managing risk, inclusion, and learning in the outdoors. The program focuses upon five curricular themes:

- 1) Schoolyard Enhanced Learning
- 2) Developing Outdoor Pursuits
- 3) Outcomes and Teaching Strategies
- 4) Understanding Risk
- 5) Reconnection to the Outdoors



Each course includes learning outcomes related to:

- The development and assessment of outdoor skills in support of outdoor education pursuits.
- The development of teacher's general and course-specific methodologies related to the teaching and assessment of outdoor pursuits in the public school system.
- The ability to develop comprehensive unit plans supported by outcome specific lesson plans and assessment practices.
- Year-long planning that targets progressive fundamental movement skills and seasonal realities in Nova Scotia.
- Specialized training for outdoor safety, including certification to demonstrate competencies to meet current provincial physical education safety guidelines.

Course Descriptions

1. EDUC 464 - Environmental Education

Beginning with the assumption that solutions to environmental problems require well-designed environmental education programs, students will develop a conceptual framework and practical strategies for creating an active environmental curriculum for grades P-12.

2. EDUC 405A - Teaching Cooperative Games and Student Leadership in P-12 Schools

This course is designed to provide teachers with the skills and teaching strategies for enacting student leadership development through experiential strategies that focus upon co-operative games and team building initiatives primarily for outdoor settings. Teachers will learn to create an experiential-based program to meet the needs of various groups of students by developing strategies for delivering activity-based initiatives for individual and group learning. Teachers will learn to facilitate initiatives ensuring student connections to curricular outcomes.

3. EDUC 405I - Teaching Navigation and Orienteering in P-12 Schools

This course is designed to provide teachers with the skills and teaching strategies for teaching basic and advanced elements of navigation, GPS, navigation technologies, and orienteering, as part of their curriculum for public school teaching. In addition to the course hours devoted to development of lessons and assessment of skills, additional study will also be completed in general and specific inquiry based methodologies related to the teaching of the curricular topics to meet P-12 learning expectations.

4. EDUC 405H - Risk Management in Outdoor Education for P-12 Schools

This course provides teachers with the skills and strategies for emergency planning including the stages in conducting risk assessments for their outdoor program. Supporting the preplanning is learning about injury management in outdoor contexts and training to respond to environmental hazards. The course is structured to include outdoor lesson preparation, safety plans, and emergency response plans in managing risks for student groups. Teachers will review provincial safety guidelines that govern outdoor teaching, as part of the outdoor pursuits listed in the Public Schools Program.

5. EDUC 405B- Teaching Cycling in P-12 Schools

This course provides teachers with the knowledge and skills for teaching the fundamental skills and safety practices for urban cycling and mountain biking. It also helps teachers to understand how to teach their students knowledge about active transportation. Active transportation in this course is specific to cycling and based on teaching children road awareness, rules of the road, cycling skills, and cycling safety to help them consider cycling as a potential life-long activity.

6. EDUC 405E - Teaching Canoeing in Public Schools

This course is designed to prepare teachers to be able to engage in flat water canoeing instruction and to help them learn the pedagogical approaches that will assist them in promoting paddling as a life-long activity. The course includes on-water and dockside safety, environmental hazards, adaptive equipment, skill-based games, and helps attune teachers to on-water risks. Teachers will also develop skills and teaching strategies for planning a progression of paddling skills for students in elementary and secondary schools.

7. EDUC 405F - Teaching Core Camping in P-12 Schools

This course is designed to provide teachers will the skills and strategies for planning and teaching a progression of core camping skills from Primary to Grade 12. The focus of the course is to prepare teachers in the areas of trip planning, on-the-land skills and managing outdoor risks associated with leading students in camping experiences. Leave-no-Trace™ approaches are embedded throughout all dimensions of the course to assist teachers to provide a curriculum with an ethic of sustainability and environmental preservation.

8. EDUC 405G - Teaching Kayaking in Public Schools

This course is designed to prepare teachers to be able to engage in flat water kayaking instruction and to help them learn the pedagogical approaches that will assist them in promoting paddling as a life-long activity. The course includes on-water and dockside safety, environmental hazards, adaptive equipment, skill-based games, and helps attune teachers to on-water risks. Teachers will also develop skills and teaching strategies for planning a progression of paddling skills for students in secondary schools.

9. EDUC 405J - Teaching Winter Trekking in P-12 Schools

This course is designed to develop the skills and knowledge associated with the winter trekking activities of the physical education curriculum which are Nordic Skiing, snowshoeing, and winter trekking basecamp skills. Teachers also will develop their abilities for teaching these trekking activities as part of their physical education curriculum while taking into account seasonal realities of winter environments. Teachers will develop their ability to engage in comprehensive yearlong, unit, and lesson planning including assessment practices that target progressive fundamental movement skills.

10. EDUC 405C - Teaching Archery in Public Schools

This course is designed to provide teachers with the teaching strategies following the skill progression of the National Archery in the Schools Program. The course will guide the development of safe-range practices, tournament play, inclusion adaptations, and how to develop a comprehensive unit plan, supported by outcome specific lesson plans, with current assessment practices. Furthermore, this course will also address yearlong planning that targets cross-curricular applications and grade-level strategies that are essential for teaching in schools.

OR

EDUC 405D - Teaching Canoe Tripping in Public Schools

This course is designed to provide teachers with the skills and teaching strategies for planning a skill appropriate canoe trip for public schools. It prepares teachers to lead canoe excursions as day trips as well as extended canoeing expeditions (multiple day and night trips). The focus will be on-water safety, environmental hazards, adaptive equipment, portage management, and in-camp preparations. Embedded into all the units taught in this course are practices attuned to wilderness travel and cross-curricular connections and Indigenous knowledge.

Information and Admission Procedures

Contact cmaceach@stfx.ca