Who should apply for Outdoor Leadership Minor/ECOEE?

• Anyone interested in attaining outdoor living and travel skills
• Those desiring to develop leadership and decision-making skills in real-life situations.
• WIU students in good academic standing (2.0 GPA or higher)
• Those pursuing an outdoor related career.
• Those anticipating a career that works closely and intensely with groups.

It is recommended prior to completing the application form that you discuss your participation in the Outdoor Leadership Minor/ECOEE program with the ECOEE Coordinator (Mr. Jeff Tindall), Chair of the RPTA Outdoor Team (Dr. Mike McGowan), and your academic advisor. Consider how ECOEE will fit into your academic goals as well as your progress toward obtaining your degree.

Cost Comparison

On CAMPUS (from the 2011-2012 Undergraduate Catalog)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ECOEE</th>
<th>Room and Board (double room)</th>
<th>$4,230.00</th>
<th>$3,200.00*</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>ECOEE</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$11.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Expenses</td>
<td>ECOEE</td>
<td>$1,800.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,300.00**</td>
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<td>University Fees</td>
<td>ECOEE</td>
<td>$1,419.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,064.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
<td>ECOEE</td>
<td>$8,049.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5,564.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>ECOEE</td>
<td>$8,049.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5,564.25</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*ECOEE fees include food, transportation, permits and fees, conference registration, group gear rental, campsite fees, and etc. which includes almost all costs of the program. The cost shown above has been the average since 2000.

**Personal expenses include clothing, sleeping bag, backpack, boots, and personal purchases (souvenirs) while visiting various sites.

Scholarship Information

A sizeable and variable cash award is available through the Yvonne and Frank Lupton ECOEE Scholarship Fund to a qualified ECOEE participant to help defray the expenses associated with participation in the ECOEE program. Criteria for receiving this scholarship include overall academic achievements, demonstrated commitment to the field of parks and recreation, extra-curricular achievements, demonstrated commitment to the field of parks and recreation, extra-curricular involvements and work experiences, and financial need. If you are interested in applying for this scholarship please include a typed letter of application addressed to the ECOEE Scholarship Committee highlighting your qualifications and two additional letters of recommendation to support your application. Scholarship applications may be submitted separately or in conjunction with your ECOEE application. The deadline to apply for the Yvonne and Frank Lupton ECOEE Scholarship is the first Friday in March of the spring semester preceding ECOEE.

Contact Information

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wiu.edu/rpta/ecoee
Environmental Conservation & Outdoor Education Expedition

The Outdoor Leadership Minor/Environmental Conservation & Outdoor Education Expedition (ECOEE) is a unique, student-oriented, semester-long, field studies program offered through the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration of Western Illinois University. Developed in 1976, the ECOEE program supports professional preparation in outdoor leadership through experiential education. Today, the ECOEE Program has been extended into the Outdoor Leadership Minor. While the two prerequisite courses of Principles of Adventure Recreation and Expedition Planning occur during the Spring semester, the actual field studies experience takes place during the Fall semester. The field studies experience focuses on principles of leadership and teaching, environmental conservation and minimum impact, wilderness travel and camping skills, wilderness trip leadership, outdoor recreation/adventure education, and outdoor education and interpretation. Although available to both undergraduate and graduate students, it is primarily an undergraduate experience.

The Outdoor Leadership Minor/ECOEE curriculum focuses on several areas in the field of Recreation and Parks: wilderness expedition planning, logistics, and leadership; environmental and cultural interpretation; outdoor adventure recreation and experiential education; and alternative settings and methods for therapeutic recreation. In addition, students enrolled in the program are afforded the opportunity to expand their knowledge through the following:

1. Direct application of principles and concepts in real situations.
2. Direct experience in group living skills, interpersonal interaction and communication, and group dynamics and facilitation;
3. Real-life leadership and teaching of peers and school-aged children;
4. Interaction with professional practitioners in a variety of settings and disciplines;
5. Planning, implementing, and evaluating personal projects; and
6. Practice of low-impact and ecologically sound techniques of living and travel under wilderness conditions.

Spring Prerequisite Classes

Wilderness First Responder Certification is offered at Horn Field Campus through RPTA 490G. This certification is a co-requisite for outdoor leadership certification through the Wilderness Education Association.

RPTA 249: Principles of Adventure Recreation (3) Students investigate the components of an outdoor adventure experience including environmental behavior, personal growth, technical abilities, and safety and risk management. Included are actual experiences in challenge education activities and adventure activities such as rock climbing.

RPTA 349: Expedition Planning (3) Provides students with the opportunity to examine the components of outdoor expeditions. Students serve on various committees in order to plan the fall field studies itinerary and back country expeditions. Goals and objectives, itinerary, finances, safety and risk management procedures, food needs, equipment, health and promotion/public relations are established.

Fall Field Studies Courses

RPTA 450G: Travel Workshop (3) Students have the opportunity to visit and observe the operation of a variety of outdoor-oriented leisure service agencies and to discuss location with professional practitioners as well as the trends, problems and techniques of outdoor leisure service delivery. Includes reflection and journalizing on group dynamics associated with bus/van travel, camping, life and other experiences while traveling across the country. This course is entitled as a Summer course and completed on the Fall expedition.

RPTA 376: Perspectives of Outdoor Recreation (3) Examines the outdoor recreation movement in America and its impact on natural resources; reviews relationships between changing public demand and the many agencies involved in supplying outdoor recreation.

RPTA 449G: Management of Outdoor Adventure Recreation (3) Students examine the management of outdoor adventure recreation and education in both high intensity and wilderness-based recreation environments. Includes visits to a variety of organizations and agencies sponsoring outdoor adventure and challenge education programs. Also covers the concerns of adventure trip management including selection and training of qualified leaders, liability and risk management, transportation, and trip member selection.

RPTA 444: Outdoor Education (3) Provides students with the opportunity to examine the organization and implementation of outdoor education programs and activities. Includes visits to a number of outdoor environmental education centers across the country. Students are actually involved in the planning, implementation, and leadership of an outdoor education program for school-aged children.

RPTA 446G: Wilderness Leadership (3) Prepares students to become certified outdoor leaders through the Wilderness Education Association’s National Standard Program 18-point curriculum. Involves field instruction in technical skills, expedition behavior and group dynamics, emergency procedures, minimum environmental impact techniques for back country travel and camping, and wilderness leadership responsibilities. Provides opportunities to exercise good judgment and decision-making in a variety of outdoor environments and conditions during the expedition phases of ECOEE in order to demonstrate a basic standard of outdoor knowledge, skill, and experience.

RPTA 448: Interpretation of Cultural and Environmental Resources (3) Enables students to develop a basic understanding of interpretation of natural, environmental, and cultural resources. Includes philosophy, history, theories, and techniques of interpretation. Includes visits to a number of interpretive programs across the country.

RPTA 449G: Management of Outdoor Adventure Recreation (3) Students examine the management of outdoor adventure recreation and education in both high intensity and wilderness-based recreation environments. Includes visits to a variety of organizations and agencies sponsoring outdoor adventure and challenge education programs. Also covers the concerns of adventure trip management including selection and training of qualified leaders, liability and risk management, transportation, and trip member selection.