

# **Tourism, Recreation and Adventure Leadership Certification Practicum Guide Oregon State University – Cascades**

Tourism, Recreation and Adventure Leadership  
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The TRAL certification practicum at Oregon State University- Cascades is designed to combine academic preparation and faculty mentoring with industry standard certification acquisition. The certification practicum allows students the opportunity to attain nationally or internationally recognized certification in one or more disciplines. TRAL 309 will provide an avenue for students to utilize professional faculty guidance and mentoring so they are more able to attain a certification.

## **The TRAL program**

The mission of the Tourism Recreation and Adventure Leadership (TRAL) program at OSU-Cascades is to develop competent leaders, facilitators, and managers of outdoor adventure, recreation and tourism experiences who have internationally recognized knowledge, skills, and dispositions that enable them to make effective decisions and provide safe experiences in complex and dynamic environments.

## **The Certification Practicum**

To better assist students securing a permanent job after graduation students should complete their certification practicum and attain the certification before applying for jobs upon graduation. Once students are registered for TRAL 309, they must complete the certification practicum and all required paperwork within one year of registration. All hours and paper work required for the certification practicum must be completed, turned in, and reviewed by the TRAL certification practicum coordinator in order to graduate. All certification attainment must occur within the timeframe the student is an enrolled OSU-Cascades student. Previous certifications or assessments obtained before being enrolled as a student with OSU-Cascades

will not count towards the TRAL 309 requirement for graduation unless approved by the certification practicum faculty coordinator and / or the TRAL program lead. The certification opportunity course length must be a minimum of 20 hours in duration. Examples; NOLS Wilderness First Responder Recertification Course = 24 hours, AMGA Climbing Wall Instructor Course = 20 hours.

The TRAL coordinator and the student will work to identify a certification opportunity that meets the department's requirements and the student's objectives. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to find a certification opportunity. Student's may choose from a variety of discipline specific certification opportunities. Certification examples include but are not limited to the following; AMGA single pitch instructor course, AMGA assessment, PCIA single pitch instructor course & assessment, ACA paddlesport courses & assessments, BC paddlesport instructor course & assessment, PSIA-AASI courses & assessments, wilderness medicine certifications, LNT master educator certification, etc...

### **How the completed certification practicum is evaluated**

The following four assignments and / or actions must be successfully completed within one year of registering for TRAL 309.

#### **1. Certification identification and description**

- Student must identify the certification they plan on pursuing and provide a detailed description of the certification, agency and course.

#### **2. Self- assessment & goals**

- Student must provide a thorough self-assessment in regards to the outcomes identified within the specific certification the student is pursuing in order to establish a baseline.
- Student must create a comprehensive list of achievable goals in regards to preparing to take the certification course and/or assessment. Goals should be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time based).
- Student must create a timeline on how they plan to achieve these goals before taking the certification course and/or assessment.

#### **3. Progress Journal**

- Student must track their progress towards completing their goals and overall progress in relation to preparing themselves to take the certification course and/or assessment. This progress may include time with faculty mentor. This progress must be tracked in a journal or log book format. Examples will be shared with student.

#### **4. Certification Report**

- Students must complete a 3-5-page written report detailing their personal performance, self-assessment while in the certification course, overall impression of the experience and overall impression of the provider.