WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP AND EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

The Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education program delivers an innovative, intensive and experiential curriculum. The mission of the program is to promote the development of strong leaders and educators capable of effectively managing a variety of outdoor experiences for a wide range of audiences in various and dynamic environments. The program is grounded in the theory and principles of leadership and experiential education and is rich with opportunity for application. Embedded within a liberal arts educational community, the program embraces the many opportunities to enrich each student's experience through interdisciplinary study. It fosters in each student qualities of responsibility and independent thought, respect for others, the spirit of collaboration, awareness of our environmental and cultural connections, and a commitment to life-long service and learning.

The Immersion Semester

One of the most unique components of our program is the Immersion Semester, during which 10 students are enrolled in 6 inter-related courses under the direction of one faculty member. Students apply, and their acceptance is based upon the quality of applications, academic record and contributions to the campus community, as well as their commitment to professional development. Students accepted to the semester are immersed in many experiences intentionally designed to cooperatively develop their technical outdoor skills and most critically, fine-tune their teaching and leadership abilities. There are many opportunities to observe outstanding leaders and educators in the field and to experiment with teaching and leadership skills. As a part of a functioning group, students experience and process the group dynamics that they study in theory. The Immersion Semester highlights include an 8-day Wilderness First Responder Course, many daily field experiences and approximately 35 overnight field days, including a 6-day trip sea kayaking on the coast, 3-day caving trip, and a 21-day wilderness expedition.

REQUIRED MAJOR COURSES		**35 Semester Hours**
Required courses:		
PSY 101	General Psychology	3
PSY 240	Social Psychology	3
WLEE 101	Introduction to Outdoor Education	4
WLEE 220	Theory and Practice of Experiential Education	3
WLEE 291	Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education: Internship Preparation	3
WLEE 301	Wilderness Leadership/Experiential Education Practicum	1
or		
WLEE 379, 279	Teaching Assistantship	
WLEE 305	Risk Management and Legal Liability in Outdoor Programs	3
WLEE 340	Outdoor Program Administration	3
WLEE 392	Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education: Internship	6
WLEE 402	Ethics of Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education	3
WLEE 405	Senior Seminar in Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education	3

Wilderness Activity Classes: **2 Semester Hours**

Two 1-hour activity courses are to be completed prior to the Immersion Semester, however, students may take additional optional courses to further broaden their skill base.

WLEE 152	Rock Climbing
Select One:	
WLEE 151	Whitewater Canoeing
WLEE 155	Whitewater Kayaking

Additional Optional Courses:

WLEE 157	Backpacking
WLEE 158	Mountain Biking
WLEE 159	Sea Kayak Touring

Immersion Semester Block **17 Semester Hours**

Required courses:

WLEE 200	Leadership and Group Dynamics in Outdoor Pursuits	3
WLEE 250	Wilderness First Aid	3
WLEE 257	Environmental Ethics and Skills in Outdoor Pursuits	2
WLEE 310	Outdoor Pursuits Education: Water-Based	3
WLEE 320	Outdoor Pursuits Education: Land-Based	3
WLEE 350	Wilderness Expedition	3

Advanced Skill Classes: **4 Semester Hours**

Select two 2-hour courses to be completed after the Immersion Semester:

WLEE 201 or 202	Lifeguarding or Water Safety Instructor
WLEE 251	Canoe Instructor
WLEE 252	Advanced Rock Climbing
WLEE 255	Kayak Instructor
WLEE 256	Advanced Navigation
WLEE 260	Facilitation of Group Games and Initiatives
WLEE 261	Ropes Course Facilitation
WLEE 265	Advanced Swiftwater Rescue

TOTAL HOURS REQUIRED **MINIMUM 58 SEMESTER HOURS**