

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE LEADERSHIP-MA (OAL)

OAL 515. Camp Ministry in Global Context. (4 Credits)

This course explores the theory and practice of doing ministry in diverse cultural contexts in the United States and globally. Students cultivate active cultural sensitivity through tools that include taking an inventory, conducting an ethnographic study, and partnering with a Christian camp ministry from a different geo-cultural context.

OAL 517. Developmental Theory and Spiritual Formation. (2 Credits)

An introduction to biblical, historical, and theological understandings of the nature of persons and the integration of relevant psychological and sociological understandings of human development. In addition, students will be encouraged to consider the application of these foundations to the contemporary work of Christian formation and ministry.

OAL 518. Research Methods for Ministry. (2 Credits)

An introduction to the theory and practice of research and evaluation methodologies as they relate to outdoor and adventure ministry.

OAL 521. Personal Spiritual Formation. (2 Credits)

An introduction to personal spiritual formation, including spiritual health and the practice of spiritual disciplines. Includes an off-site weekend retreat.

OAL 525. Camp Ministry-Global Context. (4 Credits)

This course explores the theory and practice of doing ministry in diverse cultural contexts in the United States and globally. Students cultivate active cultural sensitivity through tools that include taking an inventory, conducting an ethnographic study, and partnering with a Christian camp ministry from a different geo-cultural context.

OAL 534. Care and Counsel in Ministry. (2 Credits)

An introduction to the basic concepts and skills involved in care and counsel within experiential and other Christian formation ministry contexts including an overview of the historic ministry of soul care, biblical foundations for care in ministry, major categories of human suffering, and rudimentary person-to-person helping skills. This course is designed to enable those in camp ministry to help individuals and families understand and deal with contemporary issues—e.g., divorce, grief, suicide, conflict, etc.

OAL 547. Philosophy of Ministry. (2 Credits)

This course helps students become more informed and effective ministers through the analysis of key ministry and educational philosophies. Provides a framework within which to formulate a biblically, theologically, and philosophically informed philosophy of ministry.

OAL 548. Program Planning and Leadership. (2 Credits)

This course studies the process of developing outdoor and adventure based programs which will align with the mission, vision and values of an organization and serve the identified target groups in a meaningful way. As part of this course, students will build on their philosophy of ministry by developing, implementing and evaluating programs in real ministry settings.

OAL 549. Program Philosophy and Planning. (4 Credits)

This course helps students become more informed and effective ministers through the analysis of key ministry and educational philosophies and an exploration of core elements of ministry program design, implementation, and evaluation.

OAL 564. Challenge Course Leadership. (4 Credits)

This course applies theories and principles of leadership, spiritual development and experiential education to challenge programming specifically utilizing ropes courses, team initiatives, climbing, and other outdoor adventure activities. Students will apply learning by developing, leading and evaluating short term (1/2-day to 3-day) adventure education experiences for a variety of groups. This course is offered as an intensive at HoneyRock. Prerequisite: OAL 661.

OAL 565. Temporary Communities and the Church. (4 Credits)

This course explores the mission and nature of the Church and how the temporary system can serve its renewal and development. Students examine historical and theological expressions for the church, including the church/parachurch dynamic. They study biblical principles and the practices of renewal, hospitality, and service.

OAL 595. Foundations of Experiential Education Foundations of Experiential Education. (2 Credits)

This course explores theoretical and theological foundations of experiential education using different environmental contexts as the classroom. Diverse education design and teaching methodologies, group facilitation, and leadership in different contexts will be used to meet course objectives. The course requires individual and group preparatory and post residential work.

OAL 661. Foundations of Experiential Education. (4 Credits)

This course introduces the principles and practices of experiential education in outdoor settings. Students will apply principles of experiential learning, spiritual development and leadership to outdoor programs utilizing group processes, adventure courses, and a wilderness expedition.

OAL 662. Theology and Practice of Outdoor Ministry. (4 Credits)

This course is the foundational overview of the Outdoor Adventure Leadership Concentration of the Wheaton Graduate School. It is designed to equip students personally, spiritually and communally for a life of leadership and ministry in outdoor related ministries by helping students to develop personal vision, ministry skills, interpersonal competence, and a ministry philosophy. This course is offered in a modular format at HoneyRock.

OAL 663. Organizational Leadership and Staff Development in Outdoor Ministry. (4 Credits)

The outdoor and adventure ministry context is an excellent laboratory for equipping leaders for the church and society worldwide. This course is designed to help students develop principles and competencies to enhance their own leadership practice and to cultivate an approach to ministry that facilitates leadership development in those who serve and are served in the adventure ministry setting. Additionally, students will learn principles for effective organizational leadership. Students will design and evaluate leadership development programs in an outdoor ministry setting as part of this course. Offered in a modular format at HoneyRock.

OAL 664. Wilderness Programming and Leadership. (4 Credits)

This course emphasizes the uniqueness of the wilderness classroom and teaches students to utilize extensive wilderness expeditions to draw others to Christ and develop them into whole and effective people. The course covers program models and planning processes, various outdoor and leadership skills needed for wilderness ministry, and how God uses silence, creation, and group problem-solving to develop disciples. It is offered almost entirely in the wilderness classroom and as an extended expedition during multiple times and at multiple sites each year. This course is offered through HoneyRock.

OAL 665. Wilderness Program Management. (4 Credits)

This course will prepare students to design and manage wilderness programming appropriate for Christian and secular colleges, non-profit and for-profit programs that feature immersive wilderness experiences. Students with current Wilderness Education Association "Certified Outdoor Leader" and 50+ days of relevant field time will complete requirements leading to WEA "Certified Outdoor Educator" qualifications. Prerequisite: OAL 664. Additional course fee required: \$500 to cover certification fees, travel expenses for instructors and gear use.

OAL 682. Integrative Seminar. (2 Credits)

Integrates the core courses in the OAL the program into a unified whole. The Integrative Seminar fosters reflection on the academic, spiritual, and practical aspects of the degree while also assisting in plans for future growth and development in these areas. Includes a summative case study evaluation and final compilation of the students portfolio. Prerequisite: All OAL core courses must be completed or in process. This course should be taken the final semester of a student's enrollment.

OAL 683. Integrative Seminar. (0 Credits)

Integrates the various courses of the program into a unified whole. The Integrative Seminar fosters reflection on the academic, spiritual, and practical aspects of the degree while also assisting in plans for future growth and development in these areas. Includes a summative case study evaluation. Prerequisite: All core courses must be completed or in process.

OAL 692. Creative Project. (2 Credits)

Prerequisite: Department approval of student's Final Project proposal.

OAL 694. Current Issues.. (2 to 4 Credits)

Provides opportunity for advanced students to study collectively some topic or concept in greater depth, or to explore a specialized topic and its relationship to an understanding and practice of Outdoor and Adventure Ministry.

OAL 695. Independent Study.. (2 to 4 Credits)

Focuses on field or library research according to individual interests and competencies in Outdoor and Adventure Ministry.

OAL 696. Internship. (2 to 4 Credits)

Provides advanced students the opportunity to have a better understanding of ministry theory and practice by working and studying alongside a competent, authorized professional in Christian ministry. Includes a summative paper or reflection and analysis of the learning that occurred and its significance for future ministry (due after the internship). Prerequisite: Internship application approval.

OAL 698. Thesis/Applied Thesis. (2 Credits)

Prerequisite: Dept. approval of student's Final Project Proposal.

OAL 699. Thesis/Creative Project Continuation.. (0 Credits)