

# OUTDOOR AND ADVENTURE LEADERSHIP, M.A.

**Director,** Rob Ribbe

The purpose of the Master of Arts degree program in Outdoor and Adventure Leadership (OAL) is to build Christ's church and benefit society worldwide by fostering the development of spiritually maturing, thoughtfully grounded, and practically skilled leaders for the outdoor and adventure profession.

This degree is offered through HoneyRock, Wheaton College's Center for Leadership Development, located in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. Since 1951, HoneyRock has operated as an experiential leadership development laboratory that integrates leadership of camp and college programs with liberal arts training and coursework to develop leaders for Christ's church worldwide. HoneyRock operates as a fully functioning year-round outdoor-oriented campus, providing a variety of youth focused camp and undergraduate programs as the context for graduate student learning. Our faculty are fully engaged practitioner-scholars, simultaneously leading an organization while they study and teach in the field.

A Masters degree in Outdoor and Adventure Leadership seeks to apply the biblically grounded, historic principles of whole person development and formation to leadership in the Christian camp, outdoor, and adventure ministry movement worldwide. Throughout human history, God has used temporary community experiences and engagement with creation to equip leaders for His mission of calling people to Himself, disciple-making, building Christ's church, and benefiting society worldwide. This program is designed for current professionals, as well as those looking for excellent training to launch them into the field. This degree is applicable to those in the fields of Christian camping, outdoor education, challenge course facilitation, wilderness ministry, and outdoor related programming in college, church, for profit, or other organizational settings. Beyond the 26 OAL hour core, students choose one of three 12-hour concentrations: Program Leadership, Organizational Leadership, and Higher Education Leadership.

By the end of their program, OAL students be,

## ***Spiritually Maturing in that they will have:***

- Demonstrated ownership of their personal faith formation and wholistic growth within Christian community, embracing creation as a context for transformation.
- Discerned their strengths, calling, limits, and passions for serving the needs of the church and the world.
- Demonstrated an understanding of and affinity towards the ministry of biblical hospitality, reconciliation, and solidarity with those from diverse cultures, backgrounds, and traditions.

## ***Theoretically Grounded in that they will have:***

- Articulated the biblical, theological, historical, and philosophical foundations of formation and ministry.

- Identified and applied established frameworks for context analysis, effective ministry planning, organizational effectiveness, and leadership development.
- Formulated a philosophy of ministry that utilizes experiential education, temporary community, and experiences in creation as a context and process of transformation.

## ***Practically skilled in that they will have:***

- Designed and facilitated effective programs that foster personal and group development.
- Exercised leadership by effectively collaborating within an organization to accomplish shared goals, foster organizational health and facilitate leadership development.
- Demonstrated the necessary curiosity and skills of a practitioner/scholar: critical analysis, oral and written communication, and program evaluation.

## **Delivery Options**

It is expected that all OAL students have an active role in an outdoor related ministry while completing the degree so that coursework is immediately integrated with ministry practice. As a result, students have two options for completing the degree.

First, students can apply to live, work and study full-time as employees with HoneyRock. Students complete all courses as a cohort by taking linear or modular intensive courses with faculty at HoneyRock. An occasional online or hybrid course may be necessary based on a student's schedule. All students at HoneyRock may apply for a role as a graduate assistant or graduate program specialist, coordinating some aspect of HoneyRock's programs as the hands-on laboratory for ministry practice and collaboration. An employment application process is required in addition to the graduate school application. Residential students take 8-12 hours per semester and can complete the program in 2 years.

The second option is for students to participate from a distance while maintaining their role as an employee or graduate assistant in another camp or outdoor ministry related organization. In this model, students take courses in online, hybrid, and modular intensive formats. This may require 1-2 weeks of residency at HoneyRock, the main Wheaton campus or an OAL partner organization's site once per semester during the program. The non-residential students typically take 4-8 hours per semester and can complete the program in 3 years.

## **Accelerated Degree Option**

Wheaton undergraduate students have the option to take graduate classes in OAL during their junior and senior years as part of their block tuition. These courses cannot count towards both their bachelor's and master's degrees. If done wisely, students can complete the MA in one additional year after completing their undergraduate program. Contact the OAL faculty or Graduate Admissions for more information.

## Requirements

### Master of Arts, Outdoor and Adventure Leadership

Requirements for the Outdoor and Adventure Leadership MA, students will complete 26 hours of credit in OAL core courses and 12 hours of credit in one of three concentrations.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>OAL Core Courses</b>		<b>26</b>
BITH 565 or BITH 566 or BITH 578	Christian Theology Foundations for Biblical Interpretation Global Church History	
OAL 503	Cultural Engagement	
OAL 512	Leadership and Spiritual Formation	
OAL 518	Assessment and Innovation	
OAL 549	Program Philosophy and Planning	
OAL 662	Theology and Practice of Outdoor Ministry	
OAL 663	Organizational Leadership and Staff Development in Outdoor Ministry	
OAL 682	Integrative Seminar	
<b>Concentration Courses</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>38</b>

Students choose one from the following three 12-hour concentrations: Program Leadership, Organizational Leadership, or Higher Education Leadership.

### Program Leadership Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Program Leadership Concentration Core Requirements</b>		<b>4</b>
OAL 534	Care and Counsel in Ministry	
OAL 595	Foundations of Experiential Education	
<b>Electives</b>		<b>8</b>
OAL 516	Contextualization in Global Settings	
OAL 555	Women in Outdoor Ministry	
OAL 556	Gap Programming and Leadership	
OAL 564	Challenge Course Leadership	
OAL 566	Temporary Communities and the Church	
OAL 664	Wilderness Programming and Leadership	
OAL 665	Wilderness Program Management	
OAL 692	Creative Project	
OAL 698	Thesis/Applied Thesis	
<b>Total Credits in Program Leadership Concentration</b>		<b>12</b>

### Organizational Leadership Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Organizational Leadership Concentration Core Requirements</b>		<b>8</b>
LEAD 652	Strategic Management	
LEAD 655	Leading Effective Organizations: Structural, Financial, and Legal Foundations	
LEAD 662	Leading Multicultural Teams	
<b>Electives</b>		<b>4</b>
LEAD 557	Foundations of Leadership in a Globalized World	
LEAD 559	Organizational and Change Leadership	

LEAD 615	Entrepreneurial Marketing	
LEAD 621	Introduction to Nonprofits	
LEAD 645	Mental Health and the Leader	
LEAD 647	The Best and Worst of Christian History: Key Insights for Today's Leaders	
OAL 516	Contextualization in Global Settings	
OAL 692	Creative Project	
OAL 698	Thesis/Applied Thesis	
<b>Total Credits in Organizational Leadership Concentration</b>		<b>12</b>

### Higher Education Leadership Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Higher Education Leadership Concentration Core Requirements</b>		<b>8</b>
HESD 595	Higher Education: Past, Present, and Future	
HESD 641	Emerging Adult Development	
<b>Electives</b>		<b>4</b>
HESD 546	Holistic Growth in College: An Integrated Approach	
or OAL 595	Foundations of Experiential Education	
HESD 608	Well-Being in Young Adults	
or OAL 534	Care and Counsel in Ministry	
<b>Total Credits in Higher Education Leadership Concentration</b>		<b>12</b>

As part of this 38-credit program, all graduate students are required to complete a theological studies requirement of 6 semester hours. For OAL students, this consists of OAL 662 and either BITH 565 Christian Theology, BITH 566 Foundations for Biblical Interpretation, or BITH 578 Global Church History.