



AVALANCHE SCIENCE PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION (v3.0 10/2020)

Dear Prospective Avalanche Science Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Avalanche Science Program offered at Colorado Mountain College (CMC), Leadville Campus. This program prepares students to work safely in and around avalanche terrain and to collect and interpret snow, weather, and avalanche data. Students who successfully complete the program will be able to demonstrate foundational skills and operational best practices in various snow and avalanche-related workplaces. The roles that program graduates may pursue include:

- Ski area snow safety program worker/ski patroller
- University technician/research assistant
- Government technician/researcher (USDA, USDO, DOD, DOE, state, municipal, etc.)
- Regional/local avalanche forecaster
- Transportation avalanche forecaster
- Mountain Guide or Ski Guide (alpine climbing, human-powered or mechanized ski guiding)
- Snowmobile Guide
- Educator (avalanche safety, secondary, technical, etc.)
- College student (preparation for transfer/pursuing degree or research project)
- Environmental scientist
- Rescue provider (fire/law/EMS/search and rescue)
- Military specialist

Coursework covers a range of fundamental through advanced concepts related to the field of avalanche work, including avalanche and weather forecasting, field collection of snow, weather and avalanche data, individual and organizational avalanche risk management, avalanche rescue and first aid, leadership concepts and practice, and backcountry winter travel. Learning methods are varied and include flexible scheduling, hybrid Livestream courses (online and onsite blend), extensive hands-on applications, fieldwork, and internship opportunities, all delivered in a portfolio-learning format. The program requires four semesters of coursework over two years, a minimum of 25 credit hours, and includes American Avalanche Association Pro 1 and Pro 2 and Pro Av SAR certifications for eligible students. Upon successful completion, the program graduate will receive a Certificate of Occupational Proficiency (COP) as an Avalanche Field Technician.

Program Application Process

Before being considered for acceptance into the Avalanche Science Program, prospective students must first apply to the college (www.coloradomtn.edu > Apply Now). The next step is to upload this completed supplemental Avalanche Science Program application packet and required components to bmrasmussen@coloradomtn.edu.

Before submitting this application, we strongly recommend you contact Enrollment Services Specialist Brit Rasmussen, at bmrasmussen@coloradomtn.edu 970-947-8327 for guidance and assistance. For program-specific questions, contact the Avalanche Science Program Director, Amy Smallwood, at aesmallwood@coloradomtn.edu, 719-486-4231.

Students wishing to enroll in the CMC Leadville Avalanche Science Program must meet specific preliminary requirements. These include academic preparation, avalanche safety and medical certifications, backcountry winter travel experience, ability, and general fitness (as established through winter travel experience and a



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physician-completed medical evaluation). You must carefully review the Avalanche Science Program Standards document regarding program requirements and expectations.

Space is limited in the program, and applicants are evaluated on the completeness and quality of their application and the information they provide that establishes preparedness for the program. We begin accepting and reviewing applications on March 1st of each year for the program, which starts in late August. Program seats are filled on an ongoing basis. Qualified students not initially admitted into the program may be placed on a waiting list. Applying early is recommended. If accepted into the program, your spot is not guaranteed until you have registered and paid for classes. Depending on the timing of your acceptance, you may be required to pay a deposit or pay in full.

Program Application Checklist

- Students must be 18 years of age to participate in Program coursework unless specifically authorized by the Program Director.

-Submit all documents electronically, including supporting documentation, as needed to establish program prerequisites.

-The following items are required to be considered a complete application (all boxes must be checked, and all supporting documentation must be included), including this completed checklist with your application:

Part 1: Previous academic preparation and required certifications:

To be admitted into the Avalanche Science Program, students must substantiate appropriate academic preparation at the “college-ready level” through one of the following methods: College transcripts (official or unofficial), College placement exam (ACT, SAT, Accuplacer), final high school transcript, course challenge exam, equivalent coursework, work experience, or other experience/learning as reviewed and approved by the program application review committee:

Include proof of academic preparation as described above:

- English Composition and Reading at the “college-ready level.”
- Math at the “college-ready level.”

Include copies of the following required certifications-

- Level 1 Recreational Avalanche Safety course** (preferably completed within the past five years)- course must have been at least 24 hours in duration with 60% field work. [The certificate must be from an approved American Avalanche Association provider.](#)
- Avalanche Rescue course-** Must be of at least 8 hours in duration and completed within the past five years. [The certificate must be from an approved American Avalanche Association provider.](#)
- Current Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification** (*Must be at least 70 hours in duration and follow the [SOP guidelines](#) established by the Wilderness Medicine Education Collaborative.* Note: Applicants may possess a higher level of medical credential (e.g., EMT certification), but the application review committee will only consider this equivalent when it includes training or experience in emergency medical care performed in a wilderness context (e.g., EMT certification combined with Ski Patrol experience).
- Current Adult CPR with AED certification** (*Must be training that requires hands-on skills practice with an instructor*).

Part 2: Establish the following prerequisite skills, abilities, and physical fitness-



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Over-the-Snow-Travel Ability

- I can ski (AT or telemark) or split-board at a “Strong Intermediate Level” in variable terrain and snow conditions while wearing a ski pack. This includes ascent and descent of slopes up to 40 degrees on non-groomed snow.
- I can make efficient and timely transitions from climbing to skiing/riding and back and manage ski equipment and self-care without extended delays.
- Include** field notebook pages or similar documentation that establishes: At least one winter season of backcountry skiing/riding with at least 15 backcountry ski tours, 5 of which include at least a total of $\geq 2,000$ feet of ascent and 6 miles of travel in a day.

Computing- skills, software, and hardware

- I confirm that I have strong, basic computing skills as described in the Program Standards document.
- I confirm that I have consistent access to a computer with a webcam and microphone running a modern operating system and a reliable, high-speed internet connection capable of streaming voice and video for online class sessions.

Part 3: Provide letters of support/recommendation

- Include** two letters of support from non-relatives (preference for coaches, instructors, mentors, ski partners, employers, or persons with substantial industry involvement) and their contact information(email and phone).

Part 4: CMC self-reported medical history and a physician-reported health questionnaire (these forms may be submitted after acceptance to the program)

- Include** completed copies of *Form E Medical History Form – Self Reported* (download Form E here) and *Form F Medical History from Physician Reported* (download Form F here).

Part 5: Essay responses- On a separate document, please include the following: (Please note that well-written responses using complete sentences and appropriate spelling/grammar are the expectation)

- Describe/list your educational history that supports this application. Include formal education (high school, undergraduate, and/or graduate studies) and other education or training such as NOLS/ Outward Bound courses, specialized training, or other relevant studies.
- Describe/list your work history as it supports this application or include a resume or CV.
- Describe your winter backcountry travel experience (fewer than 250 words).
- Describe your winter backcountry travel mode(s) and equipment (fewer than 100 words).
- Statement of interest in the program: submit an essay of fewer than 250 words or a video of less than 1:30 minutes duration (YouTube or Vimeo — provide the link only).



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Part 7: I Do Herby Certify That:

- I understand the Avalanche Science Program prerequisites and meet those prerequisites, and that my application is not complete until all of the documentation required has been provided.
- Upon acceptance and enrollment, I understand that the tuition fee is due to Colorado Mountain College.
- I have read the Avalanche Science Program Standards document.
- I understand that acceptance of this application does not constitute an offer or promise of training, nor an offer or promise of employment following training, nor does it obligate Colorado Mountain College.
- I understand that all information in this application is subject to verification. If falsification of this document is demonstrated, my application shall be considered unacceptable for admission to the Avalanche Science Program, or if I have begun the training, I may be subject to immediate expulsion.
- I have read the above statements and declare that all information provided is true to the best of my knowledge.'
- I understand that I must first apply to the college before submitting this application.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit the application along with all additional documents.

Upload this supplemental application and all supporting documentation to bmrasmussen@coloradomtn.edu. If you are already a CMC student and currently enrolled in classes, you will need to re-apply to the college and select the Avalanche Science Program as your enrollment goal.

Thank you! We look forward to reviewing your application.

Amy Smallwood
Program Director for Outdoor Studies, Avalanche Science, and Wellness
719.486.4231
aesmallwood@coloradomtn.edu

Please tell us how you heard about this program: