



## **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 a variety of snow and avalanche related workplaces. Various roles that program graduates may fill 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 basic 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. Methods of learning are varied and include: flexible scheduling, hybrid courses (online and onsite blend), extensive hands-on applications, fieldwork, internship opportunities, all delivered in a portfolio-learning format. The program requires four semesters of coursework over two years to complete; a minimum of 22 credit hours and includes American Avalanche Association Pro 1 and Pro 2 certification for eligible students. Upon successful completion, the program graduate will receive a Certificate of Occupational Proficiency (COP) as a Snow, Weather, and Avalanche, Field Technician.

### **Program Application Process**

Prior to being considered for acceptance into the Avalanche Science Program, prospective students must first apply to the college ([www.coloradomtn.edu](http://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](mailto:bmrasmussen@coloradomtn.edu).

We strongly recommend that prior to submitting this application, you contact our campus Admissions and Enrollment Representative- Brit Rasmussen, [bmrasmussen@coloradomtn.edu](mailto:bmrasmussen@coloradomtn.edu) 719.486.4394 for guidance and assistance. For program specific questions you may also contact the Avalanche Science Program Director, Roger Coit [rcoit@coloradomtn.edu](mailto:rcoit@coloradomtn.edu), 719.486.4259.

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 and ability, and general fitness (as established through winter travel experience and a



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physician completed medical evaluation). You will be required to 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 as well as the information they provide that establishes preparedness for the program. We begin accepting and reviewing applications on March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year for the program start in late August. Program seats are filled on an ongoing basis. Qualified students who are 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), include 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 5 years)- course must have been at least 24 hours in duration with 60% fieldwork, meeting the American Avalanche Association Level I Recreational Avalanche Safety curriculum guidelines <https://www.americanavalancheassociation.org/s/Rec-Guidelines-Level-1-1.pdf>
- Avalanche Rescue course**- Must be of at least 8 hours in duration, completed within the past 5 years, and covering the American Avalanche Association Avalanche Rescue curriculum guidelines <https://www.americanavalancheassociation.org/s/Avalanche-Rescue-Guidelines-20170706-1.pdf>
- Current Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification** (Must be at least 70 hours in duration and covering the Wilderness Medical Society's recommended WFR curriculum)(recommended minimum curriculum <http://wfr-sop.org/sites/wfr-sop.org/files/minimumguidelineswfr2015v1.pdf>) 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).



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- Current Adult CPR with AED certification** (*Must be training that required hands-on skills practice with an instructor*).

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

#### **Over-the-Snow-Travel Ability**

- I am able to ski (AT or telemark) or split-board at a “Strong Intermediate Level”, in variable terrain and snow conditions, and while wearing a ski pack. This includes ascent and descent of slopes up to 40 degrees on non-groomed snow.
- I am able to make efficient and timely transitions from climbing to skiing/riding and back and I am able to 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** three letters of support from non-relatives (preference for coaches, instructors, mentors, ski partners, employers, or persons with strong industry involvement), and include their contact information- email and phone.

### **Part 4: CMC self-reported medical history and 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) along with *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) as well as other education or training such as NOLS/ Outward Bound courses, specialized trainings, or other relevant studies.
- Describe/list your work history as it supports this application or include 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 link only).



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### Part 6: Applicant Contact Information

NAME:

\_\_\_\_\_

Last

First

MI:

Date of Birth:

ADDRESS (Physical):

\_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

State

Zip

ADDRESS (Mailing):

\_\_\_\_\_

Street/PO Box

City

State

Zip

PHONE Cell:

\_\_\_\_\_

Home:

\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL- Personal:

\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL- CMC:

\_\_\_\_\_

(if previous or current student)

SAMPLE



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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.
- I understand that upon acceptance and enrollment, 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 prior to submission of this application.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Submit application along with all additional documents.**

Upload this supplemental application and all supporting documentation to [bmras mussen@coloradomtn.edu](mailto:bmras mussen@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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger B. Coit".

Roger B. Coit  
Avalanche Science Program Director  
719.486.4259  
rcoit@coloradomtn.edu

**Please tell us how you heard about this program.**

**Ask us about housing available for Program students during on-campus sessions.**