



COLORADO
MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Avalanche Science Program Application

Program Overview

This program prepares students to work safely in and around avalanche terrain and to collect and interpret snow, weather, and avalanche data. Program completers will be prepared to enter the workplace and continue to develop their mastery of job requirements safely. Various roles that program graduates may fill include:

- Ski area snow safety program worker/ski patroller
- University technician/research assistant
- Government technician/researcher (USDA, USDOJ, 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, K-12, 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. 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 two winter-seasons of coursework to complete; a minimum of 21 credit hours. 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](#). The second step is to upload this application packet and relevant components.

Students wishing to enroll in the CMC Leadville Avalanche Science Program must be able to meet specific preliminary requirements. They include prerequisite coursework/certifications, backcountry winter travel equipment and experience, and general fitness as established through experience and a physician completed medical evaluation. Please review the [Avalanche Science Program FAQs](#) section regarding preliminary requirements carefully. If you have further questions contact admissions assistant Brit Rasmussen, bmrasmussen@coloradomtn.edu, 719.486.4394. For program specific questions contact the Avalanche Science Program Faculty Lead, Roger Coit rcoit@coloradomtn.edu, 719.486.4259.

Students who are accepted into the program will be required to abide by the Program Standards as detailed in the [Avalanche Science Program Standards Document](#).

Space is limited in the program. 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.

Contact Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Home address: _____
Mailing address: _____
Phones: _____ Personal email: _____
CMC email (For current or previous students of the college): _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____ Relationship: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ email: _____

Program Application Checklist

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older prior to the first day of program coursework and possess the ability and equipment to travel on snow in wintertime environments as described in the [Program Standards Document](#).

The following items are required to consider the application complete.

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

- Completion of the following courses, or equivalent, as established by: College transcripts (either official or unofficial), College placement exam, equivalent coursework, challenge exam, work experience, or other experience/learning as approved by the program application review committee.
 - ENG 121** (English Composition I)
 - COM 115** or **COM 125** (Public Speaking/Interpersonal Communication)
 - MAT 121** (College Algebra I)
 - CIS 118** (Intro to PC Applications)
 - Level I Recreational Avalanche Safety course**
Must be within the past 5 years, at least 24 hours in duration, covering the American Avalanche Association Level I Recreational Avalanche Safety curriculum guidelines. Please submit current course completion card, college transcripts — or, specific documentation of attendance, syllabus, curriculum, and instructor verification for approval by the program application review committee.
 - Avalanche Rescue course**
Must be at least 8 hours in duration, covering the American Avalanche Association Avalanche Rescue curriculum guidelines. Please submit course completion card, college transcripts — or, specific documentation of course attendance, syllabus, curriculum, and instructor verification for approval by the program application review committee. For further information on the American Avalanche Association education guidelines please visit: <https://www.americanavalancheassociation.org/educators/>
 - Wilderness First Responder certification course**
Must be at least 64 hours in duration covering the Wilderness Medical Society recommended WFR curriculum. WFR is a minimum, explain other higher certification with wilderness rescue experience, e.g. ski patrol, SAR, etc. Please submit current course completion card, college transcripts — or, specific documentation of attendance, syllabus, curriculum, and instructor verification for approval by the Program Faculty Lead.

- Current adult CPR certification**
Must be training that required hands-on skills practice with an instructor. Please submit current course completion card.
- Three references** (non-relatives). Include contact information — email and phone.
- CMC Health Questionnaire** (physician recorded), [downloadable by linking here](#).

On a separate document, please complete the following . . .

1. Describe/list your educational history as it supports this application.
2. Describe/list your work history in support of this application.
3. Briefly describe your winter backcountry travel experience (fewer than 250 words).
4. Briefly describe your winter backcountry travel mode and your equipment (fewer than 250 words).
5. Briefly describe your experience observing snow/weather/avalanches (fewer than 250 words).
6. 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).

Submit application along with all additional documents.

Login to CMC application (<http://coloradomtn.edu/admissions/applying/>). Go to your supplemental items and upload this application and all supporting documentation. If you are already a CMC student, currently enrolled in classes, submit this application to lvaviscience@coloradomtn.edu.

I DO HEREBY 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:

Please tell us how you heard about this program.

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

