

Outdoor Adventure Pursuits Essential Participation Requirements

Accommodations for individuals with disabilities in accessing these policies are available upon request by emailing accessiblepolicy@wcupa.edu

Purpose and Scope

The Outdoor Adventure Pursuits (OAP) program of West Chester University is a student centered and driven program that engages students in meaningful experiential education opportunities by utilizing a variety of outdoor activities, trips, and excursions. These programs develop participants' commitment to the campus community, encourage healthy living, and help them gain confidence in their ability to lead. In order to provide students with the best experience, the program is open to students who can meet the essential participation requirements listed below. Accommodations may be made if it does not compromise the health or safety of staff members or other participants or significantly alter the fundamental learning outcomes of the program.

These requirements are related to the facility policy recommendations from the National Intramural Recreation Sports Association and the policies set forth by West Chester University and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Additional guidance come from the Accessibility Guidebook for Outfitters and Guides, ADA.gov, the American Canoe Association, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the National Outdoor Leadership School.

Policy Statement

All OAP participation requirements must be approved by the Senior Director of Campus Recreation. This authority may be delegated.

Changes may be made in consultation with staff and paraprofessional students. The participation requirements will be posted on the Campus Recreation website and on reservation software, if applicable.

WCU Outdoor Adventure Pursuits requires that participants:

1. Have the cognitive ability to discern all instructions of the Outdoor Adventure Pursuits staff.
2. Effectively communicate ideas on a group and individual level.
3. Properly wear and use all required safety equipment designated by the OAP staff.
4. Be able to effectively notify OAP staff and participants of potential hazards, personal distress, or other emergency situations.
5. Be able and willing to equally share in group responsibilities such as tent set up, campsite clean-up, and cooking.
6. Contribute to a safe learning environment-no inappropriate verbal or physical behavior is tolerated for any reason.
7. If taking prescription medications, be able to maintain proper dosage by self-medicating without assistance from others.
8. Have an average level of fitness including the agility, endurance and strength necessary to complete the chosen activity.
9. Perform necessary self-care in a remote outdoor environment, including maintaining adequate nutrition and hydration, maintaining proper body temperature by dressing appropriately for weather conditions, and maintaining personal hygiene.
10. Act in manner consistent with the 7 principles of Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics.

Policy Framework

Program guidelines include, but are not limited to, gear rental, essential eligibility criteria, climbing wall, and trip and outing requirements.

Procedures

Any changes to the Outdoor Adventure Pursuits participation requirements must be approved by the Senior Director of Campus Recreation. This authority may be delegated.

References

National Intramural Recreation Sports Association policy recommendations: (insert links)

Accessibility Guidebook for Outfitters and Guides –
<http://fs.usda.gov/publications>

American Disabilities Act - <http://www.ada.gov>

American Canoe Association – <http://www.americancanoe.org>

Appalachian Mountain Club – <http://www.outdoors.org>

National Outdoor Leadership School – <http://www.nols.edu>

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UNIVERSITY POLICY

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