



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

General course

**Year 12 syllabus – What’s changing: Rationale and Aims
For teaching in 2027**

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

Background

As part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment for reviewing the nomenclature of courses, the Authority has updated the rationale and aims of each syllabus.

The revised rationale and aims are aligned with the mapping of the general capabilities to provide clear connections between the rationale, aims and syllabus content. The rationale outlines what the subject is about and why it is important. It describes what students can expect to study in the course, along with the knowledge, skills and understandings they will develop throughout the course. It also explains how these can be applied in everyday life and references potential future pathways, outlining how students might connect what they learn in the course to further education, training and employment opportunities.

Important information

WACE Refreshment: Reviewing the nomenclature of courses

This document contains information that will be included in the syllabus effective from 1 January 2027.

Users of the syllabus are responsible for checking its currency.

Syllabuses are formally reviewed by the Authority on a cyclical basis, typically every five years.

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Rationale

The Outdoor Education General course provides opportunities in a variety of contexts for students to develop an understanding of how people relate to one another and to the environment. Through the promotion of all aspects of wellbeing, the course guides students to develop an understanding of sustainability and a sense of responsibility towards the environment.

Students participate in various outdoor activities and contexts to develop their teamwork, leadership and risk management skills and knowledge. The course incorporates principles in environmental systems and safety into outdoor activities to develop students' competence in a variety of settings.

The course develops students' knowledge of minimal-impact practices and sustainability as well as strategies to use to keep themselves and others safe. Through participation in outdoor activities and expeditions, they develop skills in decision-making and problem-solving which ultimately result in a greater sense of leadership and teamwork.

Students are provided with numerous opportunities to plan for and participate in expeditions, during which they can apply the skills and knowledge developed during the course. These expeditions will provide challenges to be solved and require them to reflect on personal and group experiences. Students develop real-world skills in self-reliance, adaptability and sustainability.

The course prepares students for a range of pathways, including careers and further study in the fields of environmental science, adventure tourism and education. It also provides them with the skills and knowledge to develop a lifelong appreciation for nature, active living and sustainable practices.

Aims

The Outdoor Education General course aims to develop students’:

- understanding of Outdoor Education principles and appreciation of human–nature relationships
- outdoor skills and knowledge to participate safely and effectively in outdoor activities
- confidence and competence in planning, preparing for, undertaking and reflecting on outdoor experiences
- personal and social development by promoting self-awareness, resilience and relationship skills through outdoor challenges
- teamwork, leadership and effective communication in group settings
- safe and responsible participation in outdoor activities by acquiring the practical skills, strategies and risk management techniques necessary for safe engagement
- ability to apply emergency response procedures in various environments
- sense of responsibility and adoption of strategies for minimising impact and promoting environmental conservation through an understanding of natural environments, human impact and sustainable management practices
- risk management and decision-making skills to assess and manage risks in outdoor environments
- critical thinking and problem-solving skills for effective decision-making in dynamic situations
- lifelong participation in outdoor activities for physical, mental and social health and wellbeing.