Learn Outdoors In The Beautiful Black Hills!
Do you care about the environment and want to teach others about the great outdoors? Do you love outdoor activity and want to share that love with others? Join the Outdoor Education program at Black Hills State University!

Prepare For Your Future
The BHSU Outdoor Education program combines studies in the areas of natural science, outdoor adventure skills, and outdoor education methods. We provide the only program in the state of South Dakota that teaches about the outdoors and outdoor adventure while training you to effectively share your knowledge with others.

Learn From The Best
You’ll work with faculty from many disciplines who are outstanding in their fields of interpretation, environmental education, experiential education, physical education, biology, botany, geology, and journalism. You will have numerous opportunities for real-life experiences as you partner with Black Hills area natural resource and education agencies. Our faculty work with you to meet all of your goals, including national certification and placement into top graduate programs. Students have opportunities to travel to regional and national conferences to gain experience and make contacts for future success.

Enjoy The Experience
The Black Hills area is an amazing setting for an Outdoor Education student. In the winter you can downhill and cross country ski, snowmobile, and snowshoe. In the spring and fall there’s fly fishing, rock climbing, hiking, wildlife watching, and more. You can join the Collegiate Outdoor Leadership Program (COLP) and participate in their many outdoor adventures. You’ll be learning on a campus that is committed to sustainability and is involved in a variety of green initiatives.
Composite Major in Outdoor Education

Science Core (4 credits)
- BIOL 151 General Biology I AND 151L Lab **
- BIOL 153 General Biology II AND 153L Lab **
- GEOL 201 Physical Geology AND 201L Lab

Botany Choose 1 course (3-4 credits)
- BIOL 301 Plant Systematics AND 301L Lab
- BIOL 461 Agrostology AND 461L Lab
- BIOL 462 Dendrology AND 462L Lab

General Science Choose 1 course (3-4 credits)
- BIOL 311 Principles of Ecology AND 311L Lab
- BIOL 321 Conservation of Natural Resources
- PHYS 185 Introduction to Astronomy AND 185L Lab
- SCI 388 Global Positioning & Geographical Information Systems

Geology Choose 1 course (3-4 credits)
- GEOL 203 Historical Geology AND 203L Lab
- GEOL 310 Volcanology
- GEOL 320 Field Methods - Environmental & Planetary Science
- GEOL 340 Mineralogy/Petrology
- GEOL 350 Environmental Geology
- GEOL 370 Hydrogeology
- GEOL 392/492 Special Topics

Botany Choose 1 course (3-4 credits)
- BIOL 302 Animal Behavior
- BIOL 355 Mammalogy AND 355L Lab
- BIOL 357 Invertebrate Zoology AND 357L Lab
- BIOL 405 Entomology AND 405L Lab
- BIOL 434 Herpetology AND 434L Lab
- BIOL 463 Ornithology AND 463L Lab

Environmental Education & Interpretation (3 credits)
- OE 310 Environmental Education: Theory & Practice
- OE 350 Environmental Interpretation

General Education Requirements
- Gen Ed Mathematics 3 semester hours
- Gen Ed Social Science 6 semester hours
- Gen Ed Arts & Humanities 6 semester hours
- Gen Ed Natural Science AND Lab Satisfied by major
- ENGL 101 Composition I
- ENGL 201 Composition II
- SPCM 101 OR SPCM 215 OR SPCM 222 Speech

Technology Requirement
Choose 1 course (3 credits)
- EDFN 365 Computer Based Technology & Learning
- MCOM 161 Graphic Communication
- OE 376 Technology Integration

Sustainability Requirement
Choose 1 course (3 credits)
- HIST 379 Environmental History of the US
- SOC 151 Social Issues in Sustainability
- SOC 463 Environmental Sociology

Adventure Education (3 credits)
- RECR 242 Outdoor Skills

Technical Outdoor Skills Choose 6 credits
- PE 100 Activity Courses
- OE 292 Topics

Physical Education Skills
Choose 1 group (4 credits)
- PE 320 Life Guard Training AND 320L Lab AND
- PE 321 Water Safety Instructor OR
- PE 352 Adapted Physical Education AND
- PE 120 OR PE 121 Beginning or Intermediate Swimming

Medical Skills Choose 1 course (3 credits)
- EXS 354 Care & Prevention of Athletic Injuries AND 354L Lab
- HLTH 364 Emergency Medical Technician AND 364L Lab
- OE 492 Topics

Program Organization & Management
Choose 1 course (3 credits)
- BADM 360 Organization & Management
- RECR 420 Community Recreation

Field Experience (6 credits)
- OE 494 Internship

A minor is NOT required with this major but electives are required to total 120 hours

** Completes one general education requirement.