

River Studies Leadership Certificate River Safety Requirement - Guidance

Introduction and Background

Advisors in the River Studies Leadership Certificate (RSLC) have found it difficult to fulfill the current “safety” requirement as written in the original certificate program. This original language requires all students, regardless of track, to complete a Swift Water Rescue Training Course.

While these courses are widely available, institutions that offer the RSLC may find it difficult to offer them to students, particularly if fulfilling the Swiftwater Rescue requirement involves extensive travel out-of-pocket payment without the support of financial aid. To both serve RSLC candidates and broaden access to the Certificate, this proposal offers a plan to match the RSLC emphasis tracks with safety and whitewater requirements yet uphold the Certificate’s integrity and intent. This seeks to support RSLC graduates by both preparing them for the line of work they intend to conduct and becoming strong representatives of the program.

Guidance

This guidance recommends different safety and whitewater requirements for different emphasis areas.

Emphasis Area	River Science	River Recreation, Education and Tourism	River Policy and Management
Requirement	Stream Safety Course or equivalent that includes river safety training, or swiftwater rescue, river rescue technician or experience for 2 seasons as a river guide on class III whitewater. * See Skills Document Course Components - Advised	Swiftwater Rescue Technician, River Rescue Course, or equivalent* *See Skills Document Course Components Advised and Optional	3+ day river trip embedded in a class or some sort of personal experience that demonstrates competence with River Safety Practices. ** See On Water Skills Check Off