



**WILDERNESS LIFE
SUPPORT FOR
MEDICAL
PROFESSIONALS**

**PREVENTION • DIAGNOSIS • TREATMENT •
EVACUATION**

**PARTNERSHIP &
COURSE INFORMATION**

ADVENTUREMED

Wilderness Life Support for Medical Professionals® is a medical certification course that provides a practical foundation in wilderness medicine for medical professionals. This course teaches patient assessment and treatment guidelines for life support until definitive care or evacuation is available, and trains the provider in methods to manage medical, trauma emergencies and urgencies in the wilderness when evacuation is unavailable or unnecessary. It also teaches techniques and guidelines for evacuation if patient evacuation is deemed necessary and critical. The course is equally divided between didactic lecture and hands-on teaching. It was originally named Advanced Wilderness Life Support (AWLS), but has since been updated to better reflect the content provided.

Originally developed at the University of Utah School of Medicine, courses began running in 1993 and stand as the first wilderness medicine certification opportunity for medical professionals. Since then, the program has evolved with our current oversight committee, led by David Della-Giustina, M.D and associates, who regularly review and update all WLS:MP curriculum. Through this manner, our medical professional curriculum has stayed current in best practices, using guidelines established by the Wilderness Medical Society, World Health Organization, CDC, and other organizations. There are thousands of MP certificate holders and the course is now being taught weekly in various locations around the globe.

The WLS:MP curriculum is managed by AdventureMed, a Limited Liability Company and accredited by the Wilderness Medical Society, which provides ACCME AMA/PRA category 1 approved CME credits. The course is also eligible for credits in the Fellowship of the Academy of Wilderness Medicine (FAWM).

WLS:MP COURSE FORMATS

There are 2 basic formats in which a WLS:MP course may be organized and managed. The **Traditional** format consists of 20.5 hours of in-person learning split between lectures and practical skills sessions. The **Hybrid** format, which allows students to work through 14 self-paced online modules to be completed prior to the course, is followed by 16 hours of hands-on, practical skills and has been approved for 24.5 credit. Online modules have been crafted to test student knowledge in conjunction with the textbook, featuring a customized learning platform that tailors the modules to best suit each individual students' educational needs.

In either format, the in-person portion of the course is organized and managed by a local organization or individual with AdventureMed providing course materials, PowerPoint lectures, and advisory services for a per student license fee. The responsibilities for a licensed course are:

Local Organization (YOU)

- Selecting meeting location and contracting the meeting space
- Determining registration price (\$750 per MD/DO, \$495 for non-Doctoral, students and residents in the US)
- Student registration and fee collection (applicable only for traditional format courses; AdventureMed runs all hybrid course registrations)
- Course promotion and marketing
- Onsite course management, which includes providing practical teaching supplies
- Payment of per student license fee to AdventureMed
- Purchase of the hard copy textbook via Amazon.com

AdventureMed (US)

- Consult on course timing, location, and course operation
- Approve proposed instructors and assist in identifying other instructors as needed
- Provide digital textbook, instructors manual, PowerPoint lectures, exam and other course materials in digital format, and digital course certificates to all graduates
- Provide templates for marketing brochures and course schedule
- Provide templates for financial management and budgeting
- Provide Category 1 CME through the Wilderness Medical Society
- Register students through the AdventureMed website (required for all hybrid courses)

FEES:

The sponsoring organization may set the final registration fee for students. AdventureMed charges \$750 per MD/DO, \$495 for non-Doctoral, students, and residents in the US.

- Traditional AWLS: \$200 per student
- Hybrid AWLS: \$250 per student
- CME: \$38 per student plus flat rate \$50 per course
- There is no associated fee for FAWM credit

The sponsoring organization (licensee) will keep any fees collected in excess of the license fee amounts. The licensee will be required to sign an annual license agreement and complete exhibit A of that agreement for each course taught within that calendar year. Upon signing the license agreement, the licensee will receive course codes with which to access digital versions of all course materials listed above.

The textbook is available to students as a digital download, link provided by licensee. The licensee is encouraged to purchase a hardcopy of the textbook from Amazon prior to the course.

KEY STEPS IN PLANNING A LICENSED COURSE

1. Sign a course license agreement (allow at least 6 months of planning from the time you sign the agreement unless you are conducting a private course)
2. Obtain and review the WLS:MP course manual
3. Set your course location and date
4. Communicate with AdventureMed regarding identifying an approved lead instructor for the course (as needed).
5. Complete a draft conference guide and return to AdventureMed in order to have your course listed on the AdventureMed website.

WLS:MP CURRICULUM

LECTURE CURRICULUM

PRIMARY SUBJECTS – Core lectures required for WLS:MP Certification

- Animal, Insect, and Arthropod Bites and Stings
- Avalanche Medicine
- Dive Medicine
- Head, Ear, Eye, Nose, Throat, Skin (HEENTs)
- High Altitude-Related Problems
- Hyperthermia/Hypothermia/Frostbite
- Infectious Diseases (breakout session)
- Lightning
- Medical Kits
- Medical Problems (breakout session)
- Patient Assessment
- Submersion
- Water Disinfection
- Wound and Musculoskeletal Injuries Management

OPTIONAL TOPICS

The course sponsor may offer other relevant topics or workshops provided the primary WLS:MP topics are presented as outlined in the approved PowerPoint lectures.

PRACTICAL CURRICULUM

The following topics are required presentations prior to conducting live scenarios in the final practical proficiency session.

- Assessment & scene safety
- C spine management
- Dislocations, fractures, traction, splints
- Hypothermia wraps
- Patient Packaging & Evacuation

TEACHING FORMAT

Core WLS:MP lectures in a traditional course are generally presented in a classroom setting utilizing the approved PowerPoint lecture presentations or breakout sessions to discuss cases in smaller groups. Hybrid courses include break-out sessions and small group discussions, but focus on hands-on teaching sessions.

Hands-on practical skills sessions are taught in smaller groups (6-8 people), preferably in an outdoor setting near the lecture facility. The collective group will discuss the relevant topic with the instructor, then break into smaller groups to discuss additional points or outline details of patient treatment scenarios. The purpose of the hands-on teaching sessions is to allow students to learn from each other as they discuss and practice various wilderness medicine treatments. The objective of the instructor is to facilitate learning, as there will be students in the group that may have extensive hands-on experience they can share with the group. The instructor can then supplement that knowledge as needed. There is a WLS:MP Instructor Manual that will serve as a guide in teaching/facilitating these sessions.

Final wilderness scenarios, which are described in the Instructor Manual, are designed to be conducted in an outdoor setting, allowing each group multiple scenarios. Scenarios require that each student group completes the entire process of assessment, scene safety, treatment, evacuation analysis and actual evacuation if required. The victim can be a student or non-student volunteer for each scenario.

Students are required to show basic proficiency in all practical skills, which are assessed by the lead instructor.

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

LICENSE AGREEMENT

All individuals and/or organizations that host a licensed WLS:MP course are required to sign a yearly license agreement. For each individual course, the corresponding Exhibit A must be submitted to AdventureMed for approval. A fee of \$500 is required at the time the initial license agreement is signed. For continuing years, this fee will be waived. In general, we recommend at least 6 months to plan and execute a course.

CERTIFICATION EXAM

For students to obtain an WLS:MP certificate, they must take the WLS:MP written examination. To pass this examination, a minimum score of 70% correct is required. The examinations must be kept on file as a record of student performance following any student questions or comments that require discussion. If the course is hybrid, there is no in-person exam, rather the completion of the online modules will satisfy this requirement.

Upon successful completion of the exam the student will be issued an WLS:MP certificate that is valid for 4 years from the calendar month in which the course is completed.

TEXTBOOKS & CERTIFICATES

AdventureMed will provide course registrants with the digital textbook and WLS:MP certificates. The certificates will be issued once the instructor verifies that the students have completed all requirements for the course.

POWERPOINT LECTURES

As a WLS:MP coordinator or a Licensee, you will be provided with the WLS:MP PowerPoint lectures in digital format.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The WLS:MP certification course is approximately 20-24.5 hours in length. We require that the traditional course be taught over a minimum of 2.5 days, and the hybrid in 2 days. Keep in mind that students may desire time to enjoy the local area. A course schedule will be provided, and we recommend adhering to this schedule.

INSTRUCTOR MANUAL

An Instructor Manual will be provided in digital format. It contains lesson plans, teaching objectives, and scenarios for the WLS:MP curriculum.

CME CREDITS

The WLS:MP course is approved (20.5 hours traditional, 24.5 hours hybrid) for category 1 AMA PRA credits, which are issued through the Wilderness Medical Society. The credits are AMA approved and are generally accepted by most medical associations. However, if a student in a medical specialty (such as a family practice physician, nurse or paramedic) is seeking prescriptive CME credits, they should contact their state association to verify approval. Contact AdventureMed if you have specific questions regarding CME. If you have an interest in conducting optional workshops they may also be eligible for CME credit, please contact AdventureMed for further information. It takes at least 2 weeks after receipt of the CME documents to issue CME certificates for the course.

Students obtaining CME through the WMS are also eligible for WMS Fellowship credits (the **FAWM** program).

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS & SURVEY

In order to comply with the requirements of the Wilderness Medical Society, student evaluation forms must be completed for each lecture and hands-on teaching session. Each instructor must also complete a yearly faculty disclosure form. These evaluations and disclosure forms are submitted to our CME provider in compliance with CME requirements.

INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

AdventureMed's mission is to set the standard in wilderness medicine education for medical professionals through its certification program, which emphasizes hands-on, practical training. Our goal is to provide students with the most up to date protocols for the practice of wilderness medicine, resulting in consistency of treatment by all WLS:MP graduates.

There are four types of Instructors: Lead Instructor, Assistant Instructor, Basic Skills Instructor, and Apprentice Instructor

One lead instructor, with the necessary medical qualifications, is required per course to provide the medical background required to teach to all levels. Other instructors are required to have the appropriate knowledge and skills to teach the course.

Are you interested in conducting or teaching an WLS:MP course?

Qualifications

- ✓ Licensed medical professionals with a Doctoral or PA certification required to become a Lead Instructor
- ✓ Licensed medical professional with a Nursing, EMT or Paramedic certification required to become a Support or Basic Skills Instructor
- ✓ Hold a current WLS:MP certification (or equivalent) for any instructor
- ✓ Experience in wilderness activities
- ✓ Teaching experience in either a traditional medical role or experiential education
- ✓ Passion for wilderness medicine that you would like to share with other medical professionals.
- ✓ Attend an WLS:MP course as an apprentice with a trained WLS:MP instructor

To Apply

Complete the WLS:MP instructor application and forward it with your curriculum vitae, current certifications, 2 references, and a cover letter expressing your interest. We will contact you within 10 days of the receipt of your application to confirm its arrival. Once approved, you will be eligible to complete the WLS:MP instructor apprenticeship. Instructor applicants are required to teach as an apprentice to a certified WLS:MP instructor to receive instructor credentials. Apprentice Instructors will be required to complete the WLS:MP certification at that course if they have not already been certified. The Apprentice Instructor will have their Lead Instructor complete an apprentice evaluation form prior to leaving the course and submit it to AdventureMed. Once an apprentice has been evaluated by a Lead Instructor, they will be notified as to their status as an instructor. Apprentice Instructors are not compensated for their teaching time.

If hosting a course in your area, a Lead Instructor will be required at your course for the purpose of evaluating and supervising your apprentice instructors.