

Hunting in Alberta — How Do I Become Certified?

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In Alberta, certain requirements must be met before anyone may apply for a WIN Card for hunting purposes. These “Eligibility to Hunt Requirements” (directly from the Wildlife Identification Number (WIN) Card Application Form) are:

1. I am not currently under a license suspension in Alberta or elsewhere that prohibits me from obtaining or holding a recreational hunting license (AND must meet at least ONE of the following criteria)
2. I have previously held a license authorizing recreational hunting in Alberta or elsewhere,
OR
3. I have successfully completed a Hunter Education Course in Alberta or elsewhere,
OR
4. I am a Non-Resident or Non-Resident Alien and I will be hunting while accompanied by a licensed Guide or Hunter Host.

As stated above in number 3, all first-time hunters in the Province are required to complete the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education Course to become eligible to purchase a hunting license. As of April 1, 2010, it is no longer possible to take a competency exam; the course must be completed. The course is available in the following formats:

- Online via www.aheia.com. The online course takes a total of ten hours to complete; the entire course is completed online, including the one-hour, 100-multiple-choice-question final exam. The online course is \$70.00 plus GST. If the student wishes to receive a copy of the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education textbook, the course is \$95.00 plus GST.
- Home Study kit (available through Alberta Hunter Education Instructors’ Association (AHEIA), Calgary and Edmonton offices). The Home Study kit includes the textbook, and several study materials. Students must review the package, then request to write the one-hour exam. This kit is \$60.00 plus GST; there is also a \$10 mailing fee, should mailing be required.
- Through an Instructor in a classroom setting. These courses may also be taken through AHEIA, in the classroom. This course runs approximately twenty hours, but varies by Instructor. See www.aheia.com for schedules and for lists of certified Instructors across the Province.

The Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education Course covers thirteen modules concerning conservation and hunter safety, as listed below:

- Role of the Hunter
- Hunting Ethics
- Wildlife Management and Conservation
- Wildlife Identification

- Clothing and Equipment
- Firearms
- Bow Hunting
- Survival
- Field Techniques
- First Aid
- Hypothermia
- Legal Responsibilities
- Physical Fitness

After completing the course and passing the exam (minimum of 80% online and 70% in classroom or through Home Study), the student will receive a numbered wallet card and certificate, proving that they are eligible to apply for a hunting license. Since January 1, 2009, all certificates and wallet cards are printed with a matching certification number. The student is also entered into a database along with their certification number. The individual may then purchase a WIN card, or upgrade his/her WIN card to include eligibility for hunting, and may purchase tags. This certification number is used to verify eligibility, when requested from a Fish and Wildlife officer.

For more information, contact:

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