



MASSWILDLIFE

DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581
p: (508) 389-6300 | f: (508) 389-7890
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Basic Hunter Education-Independent Study Format

Requires student to attend 2-class sessions and complete a homework assignment.

The Independent Study - Basic Hunter Education Course is taught in an alternative format to a traditional classroom course. Students enrolled in an independent study course are guided by an instructor team and take the same course as students in a traditional course but will work independently to complete some of the essential coursework on their own. **Independent study courses require students to attend two class sessions, complete the essential homework and pass a final written exam to earn a Basic Hunter Education certificate.**

The main advantage with Independent Study is that this format offers flexibility. Students learn some of the material, at their own pace, on their own time, and attend two class sessions. The first class is a 3.5-hour session to introduce students to the course requirements and to receive study materials including the student manual. The second class, scheduled a week or more later, is a full day session known as the "field day" where students participate in practical, hands-on, activities and take the final exam.

This format does require as much time and effort as a traditional course and students will need to allot 6-8 hours of their time to complete the necessary homework assignment. Independent Study is a good option for students with tight schedules and who are self-motivated, conscientious and learn well on their own.

Students 17 years of age or younger must have parental consent to attend our courses. Parents and Guardians are invited and encouraged to stay during the class sessions. Please note that this format may be difficult for students less than 16 years of age unless they receive guidance while completing the homework assignment.

How to complete the Independent Study course in 3 steps

1. **Attend the first class.** Obtain instruction on course requirements, receive study materials including the student manual and learn about hunting laws and hunter ethics.
2. **Do the essential homework assignment.** Completing the homework assignment earns you credit towards your Massachusetts Basic Hunter Education Certificate and provides the necessary information for you to successfully pass the final exam. There are two options. Students can either complete a free online study guide or the Northeast Hunter Education student workbook. Instructors will discuss your options in detail during the first class. **You will need to bring and submit your completed homework assignment to the field day event to participate.** (Complete instructions are on page 2).
3. **Participate in the field day and take the final exam.** At the field day, students participate in several practical, hands-on activities. Class participation and performance is a factor in determining successful completion of the course. Students are expected to demonstrate safe gun handling and a mature and responsible attitude toward firearms, people, and natural resources. Lastly, students must pass a closed book final exam with a passing score of 80% or better.

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Instructions for Students to complete the homework assignment

Complete the homework. Doing the necessary homework earns you credit towards your Massachusetts Basic Hunter Education Certificate and provides the necessary information for you to successfully pass the final exam. Allot 6-8 hours to complete this assignment. **You have two options.**

1. The **first option** is to complete the Northeast Hunter Education Manual Workbook. The questions in the workbook are designed to strengthen what you learn by reading and studying the student manual. This is a good option for those who prefer to take notes and prefer to complete their work by hand.
 - a. The Workbook is 36 pages long and is divided into chapters that correspond with the student manual. We suggest you read and understand one chapter of the student manual at a time, and then complete the corresponding chapter in the workbook, answering all questions.
 - b. **Bring the completed workbook to the field day. Remember to write your full name on it. It will be collected and will serve as your proof of completing the home assignment for credit.**
2. The **second option** is to complete a free online course. If you choose this option, you will need an email address, an internet connection, and a printer. Visit <https://www.huntercourse.com/usa/massachusetts/> and create an account using your full legal name and an email address (please note, each student will need their own unique email address to create an account).
 - a. The online MA Hunter Study guide is comprised of 16 sections (12 chapters and 4 virtual field day hunt situations) each with a quiz. Read each section and complete the quizzes. You must receive a score of 80% or better to proceed to the next section. You can retake each quiz as many times as necessary.
 - b. Once all 16 quizzes are successfully completed (80% or better), you will end on a final “Congratulations” page. **Print the “Congratulations” page and bring it to the field day. Ensure that your full name is written on it. It will be collected and will serve as your proof of completing the home assignment for credit. Or you can bring an electronic device and access your account to show us the page or take a screen shot and show us an image of the page.**

Make it a Joint Effort. Get help and discuss the lessons. It’s OK to do the coursework with family and friends as long as you understand every lesson and can complete the workbook/pass the quizzes on your own.

Do Not Wait Until the Last Minute. Plan your time now. The homework assignment takes 6 to 8 hours to complete.

What to bring to the field day session?

- a. Students should bring and submit their completed homework/coursework.
 - b. Students should bring plenty to drink and eat including snacks, and a bagged lunch.
 - c. Students should dress for comfort (i.e., hiking or running shoes & long pants) and the weather. Courses include outdoor activities and students should expect to be outside for part of the class - rain or shine.
 - d. Writing implement
- E. **If you need further assistance.** Contact the **MassWildlife Hunter Education Program** by phone or email. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 am – 4 pm (excluding major holidays). If calling outside normal business hours, please leave a message with your name and best daytime phone number. We will return your call.

Direct Office Number: **(508) 389-7820 (press zero to reach an attendant)**

Email: hunter.education@mass.gov