What will I learn in Hunter Education?

Fish and Game's Hunter Education Course will certify you to obtain NH Fish and Game firearms and archery license, this course is more than a "gun safety" class. The mandatory course consists of classroom instruction, field experiences and firing on a shooting range. Each course is taught by trained, certified volunteer instructors and the local conservation officer. The course covers the following topics:

- Firearms identification, safety and handling
- Hunter ethics and responsibility
- Outdoor safety and survival skills
- Introduction to specialty hunting (archery, crossbow and muzzleloader)
- Wildlife identification and management
- Game recovery and care
- NH hunting laws

Students in the "traditional" Hunter Ed course are provided with a course manual, wildlife ID guide, outdoor survival information and additional handouts. Courses involve lecture, demonstrations, small group activities, a live fire experience, written exam and practical field test. The average course length is 16 hours.

The online course involves a self-paced program of study, accessible from any computer with web access; an online exam; and a Field Day - see sample description below.

Firearm ID and nomenclature, actions and ammo (5 groups rotate thru each station, 10 min. ea.)
- 5 sample action-type stations w/dummy ammo
- Firearm ID, nomenclature, loading/unloading practice
- Cartridge/Shotshell components, matching, & safety

Firearm handling, carries and obstacle crossing (2 groups, outside)
- Zones of Fire
- Safe handling/passing a firearm to another person
- Safe carries (two-hand, trail, sling, elbow, cradle, shoulder)
- Safe obstacle crossings with 1 and 2 hunters

You will learn the important differences between hunting with a firearm and hunting with archery and learn how archery techniques can differ from those used with firearms. Other topics in the course include archery equipment, game anatomy, shot placement, tree stand safety, game recovery and more. Several of these topics are taught outdoors.

Laws presentation with Conservation Officer. Specialty topics (tree stand safety, muzzleloader safety, turkey hunting safety).

Basic Map and Compass: Learn about compass components and functions, taking a bearing on a landmark; setting compass to given bearing.

Written Exam

Field Exam: Live Fire and Practical Field Test (Students are tested on shoot/don’t shoot scenarios, matching ammunition and firearms, safe firearms handling and crossing obstacles). Provisions will be made for people with reading difficulties and/or physical disabilities.