

Ethnobotany Summary 2011

There are currently three students enrolled in the KuC Ethnobotany certificate program, although we have had 44 students earn a total of 124 credit hours since we began piloting ethnobotany courses in Fall 2007. Our ethnobotany enrollees are required to take the 30-32 credits of courses outlined in the approved certificate listing (see page 114 of the 2010/2011 UAF Course Catalog), whereas other students take our courses due to their strong interest in the subject. These latter, non-certificate seeking students are often life-long learners who are busy with families and full time jobs, want to learn more about the native plants in their communities, but don't have the time or need to complete a certificate. Non-certificate and certificate-seeking students who complete the course do well in ethnobotany classes, the latter group achieved a 4.0 GPA and the former 3.7 GPA.

With respect to the Student Learning Outcomes Assessment, Intended Objective 1, our currently-enrolled students all have higher than AS degrees (rendering Accuplacer testing unnecessary) and have maintained a 4.0 GPA. One of our students has already conducted research on a natural dyes project in her community and will incorporate that into completion of Intended Objective 2. Our other two students have not selected projects, but we are working with one of them to do a student exchange with HCC this coming summer to develop native Alaska plant based curriculum for elementary students. With respect to Intended Objective 3, this will be required during one of the updated ethnobotany courses that have not been offered yet.

As mentioned below in the Successful Partnerships section (f), the Ethnobotany Advisory Board does convene annually (they met last in May 2010) to discuss the program's status and identify areas for improvement within course offerings and other program activities. This is in keeping with Intended Objective 4. Finally, the recent Advisory Board report will be posted to the CRCDD/USDA website, <http://www.uaf.edu/drumbeats/> as per Intended Objective 5.