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**PROGRAM/DEGREE REQUIREMENT CHANGE (MAJOR/MINOR)**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Department	Fisheries	College/School	SFOS
Prepared by	Ginny Eckert	Phone	796-5450
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See <http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty/cd> for a complete description of the rules governing curriculum & course changes.

**PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION:**

DEGREE PROGRAM	Fisheries
Degree Level: (i.e., Certificate, A.A., A.A.S., B.A., B.S., M.A., M.S., Ph.D.)	PhD

**A. CHANGE IN DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: (Brief statement of program/degree changes and objectives)**

This proposal modifies the admission requirements to the PhD in Fisheries.

**B. CURRENT REQUIREMENTS AS IT APPEARS IN THE CATALOG:**

Graduate Program — Ph.D. Degree

1. Complete the following admission requirement:
  1. Complete a master's degree in a fisheries-related field.
  2. Submit GRE scores.
2. Complete the general university requirements.
3. Complete the Ph.D. degree requirements.
4. Complete at least one year of full-time course work, as approved by the student's advisory committee.
5. Complete a thesis.
6. Minimum credits required—18 credits

**C. PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS AS IT WILL APPEAR IN THE CATALOG WITH THESE CHANGES: (Underline new wording strike through old wording and use complete catalog format )**

Graduate Program — Ph.D. Degree

1. Complete the following admission requirement:
  1. Complete a master's degree in a fisheries-related field or meet the requirements as outlined below to be accepted directly into a PhD program without a master's degree.
  2. Submit GRE scores.
2. Complete the general university requirements.
3. Complete the Ph.D. degree requirements.
4. Complete at least one year of full-time course work, as approved by the student's advisory committee.
5. Complete a thesis.
6. Minimum credits required—18 credits

Admission to PhD program directly from Bachelor's program: Entering graduate students whose highest earned degree is the baccalaureate are normally admitted as MS candidates. However, exceptionally able and accomplished students in this category are eligible for direct admission to the PhD program. Criteria for direct admission to the PhD program from the baccalaureate are

1. Endorsement by proposed chair of graduate advisory committee AND 2 or 3 below.
2. At least one first-authored manuscript published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal or receipt of an NSF, NIH, or similar prestigious pre-doctoral fellowship

OR

3. Demonstrated research proficiency (e.g. undergraduate thesis, Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) or other intensive research experience) documented in the application AND either (1) attained a GPA of at least 3.5 at the undergraduate level, or (2) scored at the 80% level in 2 of 3 categories in the GRE.

Students who elect this route must fulfill course requirements as outlined for BOTH the MS and PhD degrees. Applicants who do not meet these criteria may enter the graduate program as MS candidates, and in exceptional cases may petition for conversion to the PhD program after Advancement to Candidacy (for the MS). Such petitions must be approved both by the student's current (MS) and proposed (PhD) advisory committee and the Director or designee.

**D. ESTIMATED IMPACT**

*WHAT IMPACT, IF ANY, WILL THIS HAVE ON BUDGET, FACILITIES/SPACE, FACULTY, ETC.*

**It is anticipated that this change will allow the recruitment of exceptional students into the PhD Fisheries program. The Fisheries PhD program is the only PhD program at UAF that required a Master's degree for admission to a PhD program.**

**E. IMPACTS ON PROGRAMS/DEPTS:**

*What programs/departments will be affected by this proposed action?  
Include information on the Programs/Departments contacted (e.g., email, memo)*

No impacts anticipated beyond the Fisheries program. The Fisheries Division Faculty unanimously approved this change at their August 2009 faculty retreat.

**F. IF MAJOR CHANGE - ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRAM:**

*Description of the student learning outcomes assessment process.)*


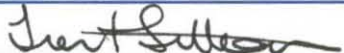

**Not a major change.**

**JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION REQUESTED**

The purpose of the department and campus-wide curriculum committees is to scrutinize program/degree change applications to make sure that the quality of UAF education is not lowered as a result of the proposed change. Please address this in your response. This section needs to be self-explanatory. If you drop a course, is it because the material is covered elsewhere? Use as much space as needed to fully justify the proposed change and explain what has been done to ensure that the quality of the program is not compromised as a result.

**The PhD in Fisheries is the only PhD program to require a Master's degree for admission. Other programs and faculty at UAF may encourage students to get a Master's degree, but none require it. An analysis of other degree programs in the Fisheries discipline (U Washington, U Florida, Michigan State, NC State, OSU, TAMU, URI, Montanta State) was conducted. Many of these programs provided a mechanism for exceptional students to enroll directly in a PhD program. With this change, we anticipate being able to compete with these other programs and recruit exceptional students directly into the Fisheries PhD program.**

**APPROVALS:**

	Date	03/15/2010
Signature, Chair, Program/Department of:	Fisheries Academic Head	
	Date	03/15/2010
Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for:	SFOS Curriculum Committee	
	Date	3/17/10
Signature, Dean, College/School of:	SFOS	

**ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNANCE OFFICE**

	Date	
Signature, Chair, UAF Faculty Senate Curriculum Review Committee		

## Curriculum Committee SFOS

Members: Trent Sutton (Chair)  
Katrin Iken  
Jeremy Mathis

15 February 2010

**Program/Degree Requirement Change:** Fisheries Ph.D.

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### Faculty Senate Form:

#### **Clarify and Address the following:**

- In boxes B and C, please remove the underline for “general university requirements” and “Ph.D. degree requirements”. Underline implies new wording. **Corrected.**
- In box C, point 3 states “demonstrated research proficiency”. What is/are the criteria for proficiency? **Examples provided. Ultimately student will have to make a convincing case in their application.**
- In box C, the term Director should be changed to Academic Program Head to reflect the current structure for Fisheries Division. **As the structure of the Fisheries program is temporary, wording was modified to “Director or designee”.**