

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Curriculum Council

DATE: 11 October 2013

FROM: Mary F. Ehrlander, Director *MFE*  
Northern Studies Program

RE: Clarifications regarding Changes to the BA in Northern Studies

In response to questions raised by Rainer Newberry, I have made the following changes and clarifications in our proposed changes to the Northern Studies BA Degree (attached):

1. We have reduced our minimum required credits to 120.
  - a. This aligns the NORS BA with other BA degrees such as History and Political Science.
  - b. The change reflects our effort to grow the BA; fewer required credits may make the degree more attractive to students.
2. NORS faculty support the acceptance of a grade of C- in major requirements.
3. We are abandoning our proposal for a new course NORS 474 *The Changing Arctic*
  - a. Maribeth Murray, who designed the course has left UAF.
  - b. Therefore the course is not an option for fulfilling a requirement within the major.
4. We already have submitted paperwork to drop the prerequisite of HIST 275 for HIST 483
  - a. We are not concerned that the required course GEOG 427 has a prerequisite.
  - b. The Geography faculty always let NORS students take the course.
5. We have clarified that students may not double count courses taken to fulfill requirements in parts 3 and 4 of the major requirements.
6. Yes, NORS 484 is W/O and that is now noted in the attached paperwork.
7. We are eliminating language about encouraging double majoring.
8. We have clarified that students may not double count major requirements to fulfill a minor.
9. We have noted that if students choose to take 10 credits of a northern language to fulfill major requirements (4E), they may have to take additional upper division courses to fulfill the general university requirement of 39 upper division credits.

Submit originals and one copy and electronic copy to Governance/Faculty Senate Office (email electronic copy to [fy Senat@uaf.edu](mailto:fy Senat@uaf.edu))

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Department	Northern Studies	College/School	CLA
Prepared by	Laura Schneider	Phone	7126
Email Contact	llugar@alaska.edu	Faculty Contact	Mary Ehrlander

See <http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty/cd> for a complete description of the rules governing curriculum & course changes.

**PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION:**

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

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

Our changes reflect our effort to grow the major. We are 1) requiring a newly designed introductory overview course that is taught through E-Learning & Distance Ed and hope that it will attract students from all over the world; 2) we are giving students more options; 3) we are increasing the circumpolar (rather than Alaskan) scope.

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

1. Complete the [general university requirements](#).
2. Complete the [B.A. degree requirements](#).
3. Complete the following:\*
  - ANL F256--Alaska Native Languages: History, Status and Maintenance (3)
    - or ANL F315--Alaska Native Languages: Eskimo Aleut (3)
    - or ANL F315--Alaska Native Languages: Indian Languages (3)--3 credits
  - ANTH F242--Native Cultures of Alaska--3 credits
  - BIOL F104X--Natural History of Alaska\*\*--4 credits
  - ART F425W--Visual Images of the North (3)
    - or ENGL F349--Narrative Art of Alaska Native Peoples (in English Translation) (3)
    - or ENGL F350--Literature of Alaska and the Yukon Territory (3)--3 credits
  - GEOG F427--Polar Geography--3 credits
  - HIST F483W--20th Century Circumpolar History--3 credits
  - NORS F484W--Seminar in Northern Studies--3 credits
  - PS F263--Alaska Native Politics (3)
    - or PS F462--Alaska Government and Politics (3)--3 credits
4. Complete 15 credits\* from two of the following groups:\*\*\*
  1. Anthropology
    - ANTH F302--Ethnography of Siberia (s)--3 credits
    - ANTH F309--Circumpolar Archaeology--3 credits
    - ANTH F313--Ethnography of Alaska (s)--3 credits

ANS/ANTH F320W--Language and Culture: Applications to Alaska--3 credits  
ANTH F383--Athabaskan Peoples of Alaska and Adjacent Canada--3 credits  
ANTH F472--Culture and History of the North Atlantic--3 credits

2. Geography

GEOG F302--Geography of Alaska--3 credits  
GEOG F303--Geography of United States and Canada--3 credits  
GEOG F306--Geography of Russia--3 credits

3. History

HIST F404--Modern Scandinavia--3 credits  
HIST F461W--History of Alaska--3 credits  
HIST F463--Foundations of Russian History--3 credits  
HIST F464--History of Russia--3 credits  
HIST F481--Polar Exploration and Its Literature--3 credits

4. Political Science

PS/ANS F325--Native Self-Government--3 credits  
PS/ANS F450--Comparative Aboriginal Rights and Policies--3 credits  
PS F452--International Relations of the North--3 credits  
PS F454--International Law and the Environment--3 credits  
PS F460W--Government and Politics of Canada--3 credits  
PS F468W--Government and Politics of Russia--3 credits

5. Humanities

ART F365--Native Art of Alaska--3 credits  
ART F367--Eskimo Art--3 credits  
ENGL F349--Narrative Art of Alaska Native Peoples (in English Translation)-  
-3 credits  
ENGL F350--Literature of Alaska and the Yukon Territory--3 credits  
Northern language\*\*\*\*--10 credits

5. Minimum credits required--130 credits

\* Students must earn a C grade (2.0) or better in each course.

\*\* Students may take this course as one of the two required lab science courses within the university's general requirements.

\*\*\* Students are encouraged to use the major in conjunction with a discipline-based major. Double majors linking northern studies with, for example, Alaska Native studies, anthropology, geography, history or political science majors may double count a maximum of 9 credits from the above groupings toward the second major. Other majors may double count a maximum of 9 credits toward their university distribution requirements.

\*\*\*\* Two semesters of a northern language, such as Eskimo or Russian.

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 )

Add  
cross-  
listings

1. Complete the general university requirements.
2. Complete the B.A. degree requirements.
3. Complete the following:\*  
NORS F201--The Circumpolar North: An Introductory Overview--3 credits  
ANL F256--Alaska Native Languages: History, Status and Maintenance (3)  
— or ANL F315--Alaska Native Languages: Eskimo Aleut (3)  
— or ANL F315--Alaska Native Languages: Indian Languages (3) 3 credits  
ANS/ ANTH F242--Native Cultures of Alaska (3) --3 credits  
or SOC 301-- Rural Sociology (3) --3 credits  
BIOL F104X--Natural History of Alaska\*\*--4 credits  
NORS/ART F425W--Visual Images of the North\*\*\*\*\* (3)  
or ENGL F349--Narrative Art of Alaska Native Peoples (in English Translation)  
(3) ^ / ANS  
or ENGL F350--Literature of Alaska and the Yukon Territory (3)--3 credits  
GEOG F427--Polar Geography--3 credits  
HIST F483W--20th Century Circumpolar History--3 credits  
NORS F484W/O--Seminar in Northern Studies--3 credits  
PS F263--Alaska Native Politics (3)  
or PS F462--Alaska Government and Politics (3) --3 credits  
or PS F460--Government and Politics of Canada (3)  
or PS F468--Government and Politics of Russia (3) --3 credits\*\*\*\*\*

4. Complete 15 credits\* from two of the following groups:\*\*\*

A. 1. Anthropology

- ANTH F302--Ethnography of Siberia (s)--3 credits
- ANTH F309--Circumpolar Archaeology--3 credits
- ~~ANTH F313--Ethnography of Alaska (s)--3 credits~~ Course does not exist.
- ANS/ANTH F320W--Language and Culture: Applications to Alaska--3 credits
- ANTH F383--Athabaskan Peoples of Alaska and Adjacent Canada--3 credits
- ANTH F472--Culture and History of the North Atlantic--3 credits

B. 2. Geography

- GEOG F302--Geography of Alaska--3 credits
- GEOG F303--Geography of United States and Canada--3 credits
- GEOG F306--Geography of Russia--3 credits

C. 3. History

- HIST F404--Modern Scandinavia--3 credits
- HIST F461W--History of Alaska--3 credits
- HIST F463--Foundations of Russian History--3 credits
- HIST F464--History of Russia--3 credits
- HIST F481--Polar Exploration and Its Literature--3 credits

D. 4. Political Science

- PS/ANS F325--Native Self-Government--3 credits
- PS/ANS F450--Comparative Aboriginal Rights and Policies--3 credits
- PS F452--International Relations of the North--3 credits
- PS F454--International Law and the Environment--3 credits

PS F460W--Government and Politics of Canada--3 credits

PS F468W--Government and Politics of Russia--3 credits

E. 5. Humanities\*\*\*\*\*

ANS/ART F365--Native Art of Alaska--3 credits

~~ART F367--Eskimo Art--3 credits~~ Course does not exist.

ANS/ENGL F349--Narrative Art of Alaska Native Peoples (in English Translation)-  
-3 credits

ENGL F350--Literature of Alaska and the Yukon Territory--3 credits

Northern language\*\*\*\*\*--10 credits

5. Minimum credits required--130 120 credits

\* Students must earn at least a C- grade a C grade (2.0) or better in each course.

\*\* Students may take this course as one of the two required lab science courses within the university's general requirements.

\*\*\* Students may not double count these major requirements to fulfill a minor. are encouraged to use the major in conjunction with a discipline-based major. Double majors linking northern studies with, for example, Alaska Native studies, anthropology, geography, history or political science majors may double count a maximum of 9 credits from the above groupings toward the second major. Other majors may double count a maximum of 9 credits toward their university distribution requirements.

\*\*\*\* Two semesters of a northern language, such as Eskimo or Russian. By choosing the northern language option you may have to take additional upper division credits to meet the minimum general university requirement of 39 upper division credits.

\*\*\*\*\*Students may not double count the fulfillment of the humanities or government requirements in #3 above with government or humanities courses in sections D or E of #4.

D. **ESTIMATED IMPACT**

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

Virtually none, in the short run, because we have so few BA students.

The workload of the instructor for NORS 201 has already been adjusted to accommodate her teaching that class. History hires an adjunct to teach a class she formerly taught.

We hope to grow the major through requiring an appealing introductory course and through providing greater flexibility. Thus eventually there could be impacts on NORS faculty and faculty in other departments. Given the choices that students will have, we do not expect noticeable impacts on any one department.

NORS 201 is being taught for the first time this year and will become a permanent course (see attachment). It is designed for delivery through E-Learning and Distance Education to attract students from all over the world who are interested in learning about the circumpolar north. We are working toward making the whole degree program available online.

Add  
cross-listings

**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)

Virtually none; we have very few majors. This may add or subtract one or two students in any class affected

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

Description of the student learning outcomes assessment process.)

N/A

**JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION REQUESTED**

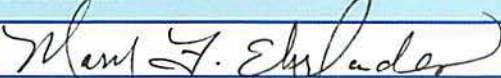
The purpose of the department and campus-wide curriculum committees is to scrutinize program/degree change applications to make sure that the quality of UAF education is not lowered as a result of the proposed change. Please address this in your response. This section needs to be self-explanatory. If 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.

We have designed NORS 201 as an introductory overview to the major to strengthen the major (and the minor).

We are dropping the Alaska Native Language requirement because these classes are taught as linguistics classes and our students generally have no background in linguistics. The objective of gaining an understanding of Alaska Native peoples and cultures is met through ANTH 242.

We are offering the students a wider range of classes to meet the major requirements to accommodate student interests and educational goals.

**APPROVALS:**

	Date	10-11-13
Signature, Chair, Program/Department of:	Northern Studies	
	Date	
Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for:		
	Date	
Signature, Dean, College/School of:		

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

	Date	
Signature, Chair, UAF Faculty Senate Curriculum Review Committee		