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Office (email electronic copy to fysenat@uaf.edu)

PROGRAM/DEGREE REQUIREMENT CHANGE (MAJOR/MINOR)

SUBMITTED BY:

Department	GPMSL	College/School	SFOS
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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	GPMSL
Degree Level: (i.e., Certificate, A.A., A.A.S., B.A., B.S., M.A., M.S., Ph.D.)	PhD in Oceanography

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

UAF degree requirements state that students have to earn a C grade or better (2.0) in each 600-level class to satisfy degree requirements. Our program accepts a C grade in a 600-level core class as a passing grade, but the intent of this change is to require a B- grade or better in the 600-level CORE courses for students to be able to take the qualifying exams.

B. CURRENT REQUIREMENTS AS IT APPEARS IN THE CATALOG:

Oceanography

Graduate Program -- Ph.D. Degree

1. Complete the following admission requirement:
 1. Submit GRE scores.
2. Complete the general university requirements.
3. Complete the Ph.D. degree requirements.
4. Complete course work equivalent to M.S. degree.*
5. Minimum credits required--18 credits

* There are no fixed course requirements, nor is an M.S. degree required to earn the Ph.D. degree. However, a candidate for the Ph.D. degree in oceanography (biological, chemical, fisheries, geological, and physical oceanography) will be expected to have completed course work at least equivalent to that required for the corresponding M.S. degree.

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)

Oceanography

Graduate Program -- Ph.D. Degree

6. Complete the following admission requirement:
 1. Submit GRE scores.
7. Complete the general university requirements.
8. Complete the Ph.D. degree requirements.
9. Complete course work equivalent to M.S. degree.*, **
10. Minimum credits required--18 credits

* There are no fixed course requirements, nor is an M.S. degree required to earn the Ph.D.

degree. However, a candidate for the Ph.D. degree in oceanography (biological, chemical, fisheries, geological, and physical oceanography) will be expected to have completed course work at least equivalent to that required for the corresponding M.S. degree.

**** In addition, students have to have a B- (2.7) or better grade in the core courses of the degree program (equivalent to that required for the M.S. degree) to complete the qualifying exam required for this program.**

D. ESTIMATED IMPACT

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

The proposed action does not have an impact on the budget, facilities or faculty. Core courses for the GPMSL PhD Oceanography degree program are offered every year, which will not change with the requested change.

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)*

The GPMSL will be affected by this action, specifically the PhD in Oceanography. Students will be required to earn a B- or better grade in the degree-specific core courses in order to take the qualifying exams. Should a student not earn a B- or better grade in a core course, the student will have to repeat the respective core course until they earn the required minimum grade.

F. IF MAJOR CHANGE - ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRAM:

Description of the student learning outcomes assessment process.)

This is considered a minor degree change. This change will not change the student learning outcomes and their assessment process. The required change is in line with the existing student learning outcome assessment for this program.

JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION REQUESTED

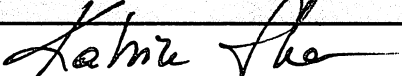
The purpose of the department and campus-wide curriculum committees is to scrutinize program/degree change applications to make sure that the quality of UAF education is not lowered as a result of the proposed change. Please address this in your response. This section needs to be self-explanatory. If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

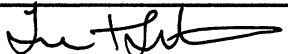
While it is not a frequent occurrence that graduate students earn a C+ or worse grade in a core course, the occasional experience in past years has shown that students who do not earn at least a B- grade in a core course are not able to pass the qualifying exams. This indicates that students with less than a B- grade did not successfully and sufficiently comprehend the core material to fulfill the purpose of the qualifying exams. The PhD Oceanography program outcomes assessment plan states that "All students must pass a written and oral Qualifying Exam within the first three years of their graduate studies to assess their broad disciplinary knowledge, their ability to apply that knowledge to interdisciplinary problems in the marine sciences, and their in-depth knowledge of the field of specialization".

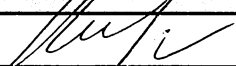
After discussion the GPMSL faculty decided that requiring a B- or better grade in 600-level core courses is a necessary prerequisite to minimize the potential for qualifying exam failure. It seems prudent to give students the opportunity to learn and comprehend the knowledge necessary to successfully complete the degree before they fail at the qualifying exams. Students can only take the qualifying exams twice before they have to leave the program, while there is

no limitation to re-taking core classes. The GPMSL faculty feel that this requested degree change is in the best interest for our students to ensure that they successfully complete the degree.

APPROVALS:

	Date	12/18/12
Signature, Chair, Program/Department of: GPMSL		

	Date	12/20/12
Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for: SFOS		

	Date	Dec 21, 2012
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		