

The UAF Faculty Senate tabled the following motion at Meeting #186 on November 5, 2012:

MOTION:

The UAF Faculty Senate agrees to discontinuation of the PhD Degree in Mathematics.

EFFECTIVE: Fall 2013

RATIONALE: During the 2010-2011 program review process, the Faculty Program Review Committee recommended that the Ph.D. in Mathematics be continued, but stated “DMS should investigate ways to increase this number [of students] or make clear the reasons for the continuation of this program.” The Administration Program Review Committee and the Chancellor's Cabinet recommended the Ph.D. in Mathematics program be discontinued. The Mathematics Department (which administers this degree) appealed that recommendation, but the appeal was denied by the Chancellor’s Cabinet on the grounds that there was no evidence that enrollment would increase or other compelling reasons for continuation.

Background and Information:

There was total of only two Ph.D. in Mathematics graduates during the period from FY06 to present. Enrollment was 7 in FY06, but since then has ranged between 0 and 3 students. As shown below, there has been zero enrollment for a year. Of the students enrolled in 2009-10, two graduated and the other student is not expected to return.

Program Review Enrollment Data

Degree and major sought:	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10
PHD Mathematics	7	2	3	3	2

Enrollment in the Mathematics Ph.D. Program by semester, 2009-present

Program	Su09	Fa09	Sp10	Su10	Fa10	Sp11	Su11	Fa11	Sp12	Su12	Fa12*
PHD	1	2	1	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	0

*As of October 25, 2012.

Additional factors are that the faculty member who has served as major professor for all recent Ph.D. students has left UAF, and that the program has persistently had low enrollment and graduates. During the previous program review period the enrollment had increased from zero (Fall 1999) to six (Fall 2004), but there were no doctoral degrees awarded. So, over the last 13 years there has been a total of only two graduates. The Program Review conducted in 2005-06 concluded in part:

“We also support continuing the Ph.D. program for the next review period, but it will be subject to a serious re-evaluation in 2010. Several questions that must be addressed at that time are (1) Has a broader group of faculty, especially including some of the recent hires, begun advising Ph.D. students? (2) Has an enrollment of about 5-10 students been sustained? (3) Have a reasonable fraction of the students admitted before 2007 completed their degrees? (4) Have these students had successful

outcomes, e.g., employment in their field, publication in peer-reviewed journals, etc.? Negative answers to most of these questions will probably result in termination of the program, or at least, suspension of admissions until a more favorable climate exists.”

Discontinuation of this program will have little effect on other programs, personnel, students, or budget. The department will be freed from administrative requirements of student learning outcomes assessment and program review. The vacant faculty position can be refilled to focus on other department needs. There are currently no students enrolled in this program, and admissions have been suspended pending Faculty Senate action. Therefore, the program can be discontinued immediately and does not require a teach out period.