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PROGRAM/DEGREE REQUIREMENT CHANGE (MAJOR/MINOR)

SUBMITTED BY:

Department	Fish Division	College/School	SFOS
Prepared by	Trent Sutton	Phone	907-474-7285
Email Contact	tmsutton@alaska.edu	Faculty Contact	Trent Sutton

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

PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION:

DEGREE PROGRAM	B.A. in Fisheries
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)

We are making the following changes to the B.A. in Fisheries degree program: (1) adding the option of taking ENGL F314 or F414 as an upper-level writing course to provide flexibility in meeting degree requirements (currently, only ENGL F314 is required); (2) adding two new courses (FISH F102 Fact or Fishin: Case Studies in Fisheries [1 credit] and FISH F103 The Harvest of the Sea [2 credits]) to improve student retention in the degree program; (3) adding FISH F487 Fisheries Management (3 credits) to serve as a capstone course for the degree program; (4) adding alternative courses for FISH F411 Human Dimensions of Environmental Systems (3 credits) to increase student flexibility in meeting this degree course requirement; (5) converting the current degree program to two concentrations, with one focusing on Fisheries Business and Social Science and the other focusing on Community and Rural Development; (6) adding a new course (FISH 340 Seafood Business) to the Fisheries Business and Social Science concentration; and (7) reducing the minimum credits required for degree completion for both concentrations from 125 to **120 credits** to be more consistent with the credit requirement in the B.S. in Fisheries Science degree program (120 credits).

B. CURRENT REQUIREMENTS AS IT APPEARS IN THE CATALOG:

- Major — BA Degree
1. Complete the general university requirements (page 165).
 2. Complete the BA degree requirements (page 165).
 3. Complete the following:*
 - ACCT F261—Accounting Concepts and Uses I.....3
 - ANS F350W,O—Cross Cultural Communication: Alaskan Perspectives (3)
or ANS F401—Cultural Knowledge of Native Elders.....3
 - ANTH F403W/O—Political Anthropology (3)
or ANTH F428—Ecological Anthropology and Regional Sustainability.....3
 - BA F307—Introductory Human Resources Management (3)
or BA F343—Principles of Marketing.....3
 - BA F390—Organizational Theory and Behavior (3)
or BA F330—The Legal Environment of Business (4)..... 3 – 4
 - ECON F235—Introduction to Natural Resources.....3
 - ENGL F314 W,O—Technical Writing.....3
 - FISH F101—Introduction to Fisheries.....3
 - FISH F261—Introduction to Fisheries Utilization.....3
 - FISH F288—Fish and Fisheries of Alaska.....3
 - FISH F411—Human Dimensions of Environmental Systems.....3
 - FISH F490—Experiential Learning Internship.....1
 - NRM F407—Environmental Law (3)
or HIST F411—Environmental History (3).....3
 - PS F447—U.S. Environmental Politics (3)
or PS F454—International Law and the Environment (3)
or PS F455O—Political Economy of the Global Environment (3)
or PS F458—Comparative Environmental Politics (3).....3

RD F300W—Rural Development in a Global Perspective (3)	
or RD F350O—Indigenous Knowledge and Community Research (3)	
or RD F430—Indigenous Economic Development and Entrepreneurship (3).....	3
STAT F200X—Elementary Probability and Statistics.....	3
Upper-division fisheries elective.....	3
4. Minimum credits required	125

* Students must earn a C- grade or better in each course.

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)

Major — BA Degree	
Concentrations: Fisheries Business and Policy, Rural and Community Development	
1. Complete the general university requirements (page 165). To graduate, all students must complete 39 upper-division credits.	
2. Complete the BA degree requirements (page 165).	
3. Complete the following (major) requirements:*	
ENGL F314 W,O—Technical Writing (3).....	3
or ENGL F414 W---Research Writing (3).....	3
FISH F101—Introduction to Fisheries.....	3
FISH F102---Fact or Fishin: Case Studies in Fisheries.....	1
FISH F103---The Harvest of the Sea.....	2
FISH F261—Introduction to Fisheries Utilization.....	3
FISH F288—Fish and Fisheries of Alaska.....	3
FISH F411—Human Dimensions of Environmental Systems.....	3
or GEOG F312—People, Places, and Environment: Principles of Geography** (3)	
or SOC F440—Environmental Sociology** (3).....	3
FISH F487W,O—Fisheries Management.....	3
FISH F490—Experiential Learning Internship.....	1
Upper-division fisheries elective.....	3
STAT F200X—Elementary Probability and Statistics.....	3
4. Complete one of the following concentrations:*	
a. Fisheries Business and Social Science	
ACCT F261—Accounting Concepts and Uses I.....	3
ANS F350W,O—Cross Cultural Communication: Alaskan Perspectives (3)	
— or ANS F401—Cultural Knowledge of Native Elders.....	3
ANTH F403W/O—Political Anthropology** (3)	
or ANTH F428—Ecological Anthropology and Regional Sustainability (3).....	3
BA F307—Introductory Human Resources Management (3)	
or BA F343—Principles of Marketing (3).....	3
or BA F390—Organizational Theory and Behavior (3)	
or BA F330—The Legal Environment of Business (4).....	3-4
ECON F235—Introduction to Natural Resources.....	3
FISH 340—Seafood Business.....	3
NRM F407—Environmental Law (3)	
or NRM F430---Resource Management Planning (3)	
or HIST F411—Environmental History (3).....	3
PS F447—U.S. Environmental Politics (3)	
or PS F454—International Law and the Environment (3)	
or PS F455O—Political Economy of the Global Environment (3)	
or PS F458—Comparative Environmental Politics (3).....	3
RD F245---Fisheries Development in Rural Alaska (3)	
or RD F265---Perspectives on Subsistence in Alaska (3)	
or RD F300W—Rural Development in a Global Perspective (3)	
or RD F350O—Indigenous Knowledge and Community Research (3)	
or RD F351---Strategic Planning for Rural Communities (3)	
or ANS F350W,O—Cross Cultural Communication: Alaskan Perspectives (3)	
or ANS F401—Cultural Knowledge of Native Elders**.....	3
or RD F430—Indigenous Economic Development and Entrepreneurship (3).....	3
b. Rural and Community Development	
RD F245---Fisheries Development in Rural Alaska (3)	
or RD F265---Perspectives on Subsistence in Alaska (3)	

or ANTH---F428 Ecological Anthropology and Regional Sustainability (3)...	3
RD F300W---Rural Development in a Global Perspective.....	3
RD F350O---Indigenous Knowledge and Community Research.....	3
RD F351---Strategic Planning for Rural Communities.....	3
RD F352---Rural Business Planning and Proposal Development.....	3
RD F450---Managing Rural Projects and Programs.....	3
RD F475W---Rural Development Senior Project.....	3

45. Minimum credits required125 **120**

* Students must earn a C- grade or better in each course.

****Students that take GEOG312 or SOC F440, ANTH 403, or ANS 401 should be aware that these four courses require additional prerequisites that are not part of the Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries degree program.**

D. ESTIMATED IMPACT

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

There is no significant anticipated impact of these changes on budgets, facilities, space, and faculty for the inclusion of the FISH courses. FISH F102 Fact or Fishin: Case Studies in Fisheries (1 credit) is a course that is to be taught every fall semester by Fisheries faculty members Trent Sutton and Andy Seitz as part of their annual workload. In addition, FISH F103 The Harvest of the Sea (2 credits) and FISH F487W,O Fisheries Management will be taught by Fisheries faculty member Trent Sutton as part of his annual workload. FISH 340 Seafood Business is a new course that will be offered every fall semester by SFOS faculty member Quentin Fong as part of his annual workload. FISH F411 Human Dimensions of Environmental Systems (3 credits) could see a slight decline in enrollment if students opt for GEOG 312 or SOC 440, and those courses could see a slight increase in enrollment (2-4 students per year maximum). Adding ENLG 414W as an option (ENGL 314W,O or ENGL 414W) to the B.A. in Fisheries major requirement for both concentrations should only result in an additional 2-4 students enrolling for this course per year which should have a minimal impact on that course offering. Similarly, adding NRM F430 as an option (NRM F407, NRM F430, or HIST F411) to the B.A. Fisheries Business and Policy concentration should also only result in an additional 2-4 students enrolling for this course per year (which also should have a minimal impact on that course offering). Removing ACCT F261 from the degree program and consolidating the Business Administration requirement in the Fisheries Business and Policy concentration from two classes to one will result in a decline in students enrolling for SOM courses. The largest impact will be on the Rural Development as the Community and Rural Development concentration requires seven courses from that program. Through discussions with the RD faculty, these courses will be regularly offered as part of the annual faculty workload and will be provided both on-campus and to students at off-campus locations using audio communication. The increase in students enrolling in RD courses is not expected to cause any negative impacts or additional requirements in terms of budget, facilities and space, or faculty.

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 inclusion of the FISH courses in the B.A. in Fisheries degree program concentrations will have no impact on any other programs at UAF. However, additions of courses from other degree programs (ENGL, NRM, RD, GEOG, SOC) or deletions/consolidations of course offerings (ACCT, BA) will have some positive or negative impacts in terms of student enrollments. These programs have been contacted and support these changes (see attached emails).

F. IF MAJOR CHANGE - ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRAM:

Description of the student learning outcomes assessment process.)

The learning outcomes assessment that exists for the current B.A. in Fisheries is still relevant to the proposed version (two concentrations). The assessment criteria will be applied separately to each concentration for conducting outcomes assessment.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The SFOS Fisheries Division will create a center of academic excellence in the fisheries discipline that promotes lifelong learning for undergraduate students preparing to enter a career in fisheries.

GOAL STATEMENT:

The goal of the B.A. in Fisheries degree program is to educate undergraduate students in a broad, interdisciplinary curriculum in fisheries science, with particular emphasis on the social, cultural, and

economic aspects of fish and invertebrate fisheries, in preparation for a career in fisheries and/or the seafood industry in Alaska and elsewhere.

INTENDED OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:

1. Have excellent oral and written communication skills.
2. Obtain interdisciplinary knowledge of fishery science, with particular emphasis on the social, cultural, economic, and rural development aspects of fish and invertebrate fisheries.
3. Achieve knowledge of the scientific tools of data collection in interdisciplinary fisheries science and demonstrate competence in compiling and reporting of that data.
4. Earn a degree in a timely fashion.
5. Be prepared to compete successfully for admission to interdisciplinary M.S. or M.A. programs in Fisheries or related science disciplines.
6. Be prepared to compete successfully for entry-level professional career positions in social, cultural, economic, and/or rural development aspects of fisheries in Alaska and elsewhere.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES:

1. Compare individual scores of students in similarly-scored evaluations of term papers in the introductory and capstone courses; 80% of students who complete both courses will improve scores. (Objectives 1-3)
2. Track retention rates and rate of graduation within 5 years as evidence of achievement. Eighty percent (80%) of undergraduates will be retained each year, and 50% of juniors will complete degrees in ≤ 3 years. (Objective 4)
3. Eighty percent (80%) of graduates seeking employment in fisheries or aquatic sciences, or admission to a graduate program will succeed within one year of graduation. (Objectives 5-6)
4. Compile and summarize mentor evaluations from the experiential learning internships as evidence of readiness for a professional position. 80% of students will be judged by mentors to have performed at a satisfactory level for an entry-level fisheries professional. (Objective 6)
5. Eighty percent (80%) of graduates will be "satisfied" or "very satisfied" overall, with the education they received in the Fisheries Program at UAF. (All objectives)

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 justification for each of the aforementioned changes is addressed below in the order that they are listed above in Part A: Change in Degree Requirements.

1. *Add the option of taking ENGL F314 or F414 as an upper-level writing course to provide flexibility in meeting degree requirements (currently, only ENGL F314 is required)*. Currently, students enrolled in the B.A. in Fisheries degree program are only required to take ENGL F314. B.A. students sometimes request to take ENGL F414 because ENGL F314 offerings are at times that conflict with their schedule. By providing an "or" option (ENGL F314 or ENGL F414), we will provide additional flexibility into our degree programs and additional choices for students in selecting courses to complete their degree requirements.
2. *Add two new courses (FISH F102 Fact or Fishin: Case Studies in Fisheries [1 credit] and FISH F103 The Harvest of the Sea [2 credits]) to improve student retention in the degree program*. FISH F102 and F103 have been added to the B.A. in Fisheries degree program to improve student retention, specifically during the first two years. Current first-year retention rates for new freshman and transfer students combined in this degree program are 50%. We have identified that this is in part due to the lack of classes after the first fall semester that a student is enrolled in the degree program (FISH F101 Introduction to Fisheries) until spring semester of their sophomore year (FISH F261 Introduction to Fisheries Utilization and F288 Fish and Fisheries of Alaska). Based on the retention literature, having frequent contact between students and faculty during the first two years, especially the first year, is critical for creating a learning culture that improves student retention. By adding two 100-level courses during the first year (FISH F102 – Fall semester; FISH F103 – Spring semester) and moving FISH 261 to the Fall semester of their second year, students will come into more frequent contact with Fisheries Division faculty. Further, we anticipate that

increasing the number of lower-level courses will help us to develop a learning community/culture for our students and may also serve as a recruitment tool for students into this degree program.

3. *Add FISH 487 Fisheries Management (3 credits) to serve as a capstone course for the degree program.* FISH F487 currently serves as a capstone course requirement in the B.S. in Fisheries Science degree program. However, no such course exists in the B.A. in Fisheries degree program. Adding this course to the major requirement of both concentrations of the B.A. in Fisheries degree program will meet this requirement and help us to better address assessment criteria 1.
4. *Add alternative courses for FISH F411 Human Dimensions of Environmental Systems (3 credits) to increase student flexibility in meeting this degree course requirement.* FISH F411 Human Dimensions of Environmental Systems (3 credits) is only offered once per year, often at the same time as other required courses. As a result, students often cannot take one of these classes which delays their graduation by an additional year. For this class, we have identified and added alternative courses that offer similar content to alleviate this bottleneck in our B.A. in Fisheries degree program (GEOG F312 People, Places, and Environment: Principles of Geography [3 credits] SOC F440 Environmental Sociology [3 credits]). It should be noted that this change was approved last year for the B.S. in Fisheries Science degree program.
5. *Convert the current degree program to two concentrations, with one focusing on Fisheries Business and Social Science and the other focusing on Community and Rural Development.* The current enrollment in the B.A. in Fisheries degree program is relatively low (12-14 students). In discussing this degree program with undergraduates, it became clear that students fell into one of two groups: one group that liked the current interdisciplinary/cross-training focus of the degree program and a separate group that would prefer a more focused degree program. To accommodate this need, we are proposing the split the current B.A. in Fisheries degree program into two concentrations: (a) Fisheries Business and Social Science which will still serve in the capacity as a broadly focused, interdisciplinary option for students interested in the B.A. in Fisheries degree program and (b) Community and Rural Development which will have a specific focus on the development of fisheries leaders in rural Alaskan communities. For students in the Fisheries Business and Social Science concentration, the primary emphasis will be on training them for positions within the seafood processing industry. Career opportunities will remain the same as before – state, federal, and tribal/native natural resources management agencies, non-governmental agencies, and the seafood industry in the areas of business administration, policy development, fisheries education and outreach, and social science. In essence, this concentration is identical to the existing B.A. in Fisheries degree program, minus a few business courses to reduce the minimum credit requirement to 121 credits (see below for justification for that reduction). The Community and Rural Development concentration is a new focus that was identified through discussions with faculty in the Rural Development program. Given the importance of subsistence fishing in rural Alaskan communities and the need to develop community leaders in these areas, the melding of these two foci is a natural union to bring together disparate expertise in a synergistic fashion. It is anticipated that this focus will be very popular with nontraditional students in rural communities and, given the distance delivery focus in both the Fisheries and Rural Development programs, this concentration would be available to students in rural communities of Alaska. Students completing this concentration would be trained for leadership positions with borough, state, and federal agencies and organizations focusing on subsistence issues (ADFG, USFWS), Community Development Program (CDQ) groups, Alaska Native organizations, K-12 education, and the commercial fishing industry. A program of this emphasis was identified as an area of need during an Alaska industry survey completed by the UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (SFOS) in 2006. The SFOS and the College of Rural and Community Development will work closely together to broadly advertise this program throughout Alaska, which is anticipated to have an enrollment of 10-20 students.
6. *Add a new course (FISH 340 Seafood Business) to the Fisheries Business and Social Science concentration.* The objective of this course is to enable the student understand and use the appropriate managerial and decision-making tools to start and run a seafood business in a profitable manner. This course focuses on the seafood harvesting and processing sectors. Although there are many business and marketing courses offered by the School of Management (SOM), this course specifically focuses on students that would like to pursue a career in fisheries business, policy, and coastal community development. No such course is offered by SOM.
7. *Reduce the minimum credits required for degree completion for both concentrations from 125 to **120** credits to be more consistent with the credit requirement in the B.S. in Fisheries Science degree*

program (120 credits). The B.S. in Fisheries Science degree program requires a minimum of 120 course credits for completion, whereas the current existing version of the B.A. in Fisheries degree program requires a minimum of 125 course credits. To avoid the perception that one degree program could take longer to complete due to a “greater” credit requirement, we are proposing to reduce the minimum course credit requirement for both concentrations of the B.A. in Fisheries degree program to **120 credits**. With this reduction, we are still able to provide a degree program that contains relevant courses, improved flexibility in course offerings, and attainability in a four-year period.

SEE SIGNATURES ATTACHED

APPROVALS:

	Date	
Signature, Chair, Program/Department of:		


	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		


APPROVALS:

	Date	08/21/13
Signature, Chair, Program/Department of:	Fisheries Division	

	Date	08/21/13
Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for:	SFOS Curriculum Committee	

	Date	Aug 21, 2013
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		