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

**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-senate/curriculum/course-degree-procedures/> for a complete description of the rules governing curriculum & course changes.

**PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION:**

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

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

Change the name of Northern Studies to Arctic and Northern Studies

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

Northern Studies

College of Liberal Arts

907-474-7126

Interdisciplinary

[www.uaf.edu/northern/](http://www.uaf.edu/northern/)

BA, MA Degrees; Minor

Downloadable PDF

Minimum Requirements for Degree: 30 credits

The northern studies program offers an interdisciplinary study of northern problems and policy issues. The purpose of the northern studies program is to give interested students a broader study of the northern region -- its environment, peoples and problems.

The geographic location of UAF is outstanding for the study of northern issues. Students examine the countries and regions throughout the circumpolar North, and their distinctive problems, such as the survival of indigenous populations, environmental and wilderness issues, high rates of alcoholism and suicide, fragile environments, adaptation to extreme cold and cycles of light and darkness and adult development in small frontier societies.

The MA program is designed especially for students who live and work in the North and who

want to expand their knowledge of the history, economics, politics, psychology and anthropology of northern regions. Many northern studies students are seeking employment with northern agencies and want to develop a broad perspective on northern issues. Some students plan to pursue doctoral work in a discipline such as history or anthropology and seek a master's degree with a broad approach. Other students are employed as teachers, military personnel, or agency staff and want a rich, interdisciplinary program. The program is suitable for any of these goals, and it is designed to be compatible with either full-time graduate study or full-time employment.

The MA program offers three concentrations: northern history, environmental politics and policy, and individualized study. Students of northern history benefit from the availability of the Alaska and circumpolar collections of the UAF library, UA Museum of the North, and the Polar Regions Collection. The environmental politics and policy concentration focuses on political, social and psychological responses to environmental change. The individualized study concentration has a focus selected by the student.

The program offers a thesis or non-thesis option. The choice of option is guided by the student's interests and goals, the graduate advisory committee, and the requirements of the university. Faculty in the program are drawn from such disciplines as Alaska Native studies, art, anthropology, economics, English, geography, history, library science, political science and psychology.

For information on studying at McGill University, Montreal, Canada; the University of Copenhagen, Denmark; or opportunities for study in the former U.S.S.R., see [International Study Abroad and Exchange Programs](#).

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 )*

Arctic and Northern Studies

College of Liberal Arts  
907-474-7126  
Interdisciplinary  
[www.uaf.edu/northern/](http://www.uaf.edu/northern/)

[BA](#), [MA](#) Degrees; [Minor](#)

[Downloadable PDF](#)

Minimum Requirements for Degree: 30 credits

The arctic and northern studies program offers an interdisciplinary study of arctic and northern problems and policy issues. The purpose of the arctic and northern studies program is to give interested students a broader study of the circumpolar ~~northern~~ region -- its environment, peoples and challenges ~~problems~~.

The geographic location of UAF is outstanding for the study of arctic and northern issues. Students examine the countries and regions throughout the circumpolar North, and their distinctive challenges problems, such as the survival of indigenous populations, environmental and wilderness issues, high rates of alcoholism and suicide, fragile environments, adaptation to extreme cold and cycles of light and darkness and adult development in small frontier societies.

The MA program is designed especially for students who live and work in the North and who want to expand their knowledge of the history, economics, politics, psychology and anthropology of arctic and northern regions. Many Arctic and Northern Studies students are seeking employment with northern agencies and want to develop a broad perspective on arctic and northern issues. Some students plan to pursue doctoral work in a discipline such as history or anthropology and seek a master's degree with a broad approach. Other students are employed as teachers, military personnel, or agency staff and want a rich, interdisciplinary program. The program is suitable for any of these goals, and it is designed to be compatible with either full-time graduate study or part-time or full-time employment.

The MA program offers three concentrations: northern history, arctic policy, and environmental politics and policy, along with the and individualized study option. Students of northern history benefit from the availability of the Alaska and circumpolar collections of the UAF library, UA Museum of the North, and the Polar Regions Collection. The arctic policy concentration addresses international, national and subnational policy structures and processes, as well as the aims of policies developed to address challenges in the arctic region. The environmental politics and policy concentration focuses on political, social and psychological responses to environmental change. The individualized study concentration allows the student to create a concentration with the guidance of his or her graduate advisory committee, has a focus selected by the student.

The program offers a thesis or non-thesis option. The choice of option is guided by the student's interests and goals, the graduate advisory committee, and the requirements of the university. Faculty in the program are drawn from such disciplines as Alaska Native studies, art, anthropology, economics, English, geography, history, library science, political science and psychology.

For information on studying at McGill University, Montreal, Canada; the University of Copenhagen, Denmark; or opportunities for study in the former U.S.S.R., see [International Study Abroad and Exchange Programs](#).

**D. ESTIMATED IMPACT**

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

None, except that we expect it will enable us to attract more students because prospective students will find us when they are looking for Arctic Studies.

**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 other programs will be directly impacted, except that as we attract more students, they will take more UAF courses, but the vast majority of these will be NORS courses.

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

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

We have a student learnings outcomes assessment plan in place. Our direct measures of student learning are evaluations (using rubrics) of the theses/projects and comprehensive exams. We also have a student exit survey in place.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION REQUESTED**

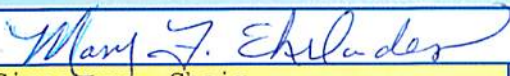
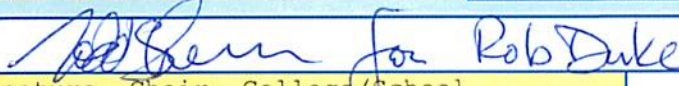
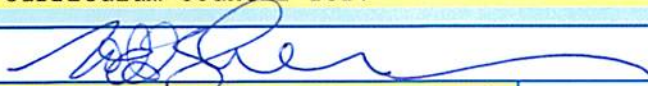
The purpose of the department and campus-wide curriculum committees is to scrutinize program/degree change applications to make sure that the quality of UAF education is not lowered as a result of the proposed change. Please address this in your response. This section needs to be self-explanatory. If 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 are changing the name of the program to more accurately reflect what our program offers -- both Arctic and (subarctic) Northern Studies. The title "northern studies" is vague and does not clearly indicate that the program addresses the circumpolar north. For instance, within the United States, "southern studies" programs address the American south. Thus "northern studies" could be assumed to address the more northern states within the United States.



We have always addressed the Arctic, and with our new Arctic Policy concentration\*, there is greater emphasis on the Arctic. We want to label our program as accurately and specifically as possible. When people search for educational programs that address the Arctic, we want our program to pop up. This new title will serve that purpose.

\*see attached approval by Provost Henrichs

**APPROVALS:**

		Date	5-19-14
Signature, Chair, Program/Department of:		Northern Studies	
		Date	9/26/14
Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for:		CCA	
		Date	9/26/14
Signature, Dean, College/School of:		CCA	

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

		Date	
Signature, Chair, UAF Faculty Senate Curriculum Review Committee			

October 21, 2013

The Graduate Academic and Advisory Committee of the Faculty Senate approved the following:

**GRADUATE PROGRAM REQUEST:**

**SUBMITTED BY THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS**

(Submitted by Northern Studies)

5-GPCh.

Program Change: MA - Northern Studies: Addition of a new concentration, Arctic Policy, to the degree program; effective Fall 2014 upon approval.

Effective: Fall 2014 upon approval.

Rationale: See request attached.

APPROVED:

  
Chancellor's / Provost's Office

DATE: 10/22/13

DISAPPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chancellor's / Provost's Office

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_