

The following was passed at Faculty Senate Meeting #220, February 6, 2017:

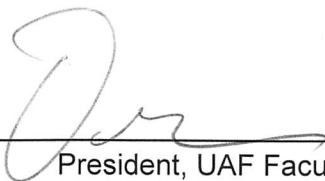
**MOTION:**

The UAF Faculty Senate moves to approve a new minor in Ethnobotany, housed in the College of Rural and Community Development (Interior Alaska Campus).

Effective: Fall 2017

Rationale: The proposal for the new minor has been reviewed and approved by the Curriculum Review and Curricular Affairs Committees. The proposal (#62-UNP) is on file in the Governance Office, 312B Signers' Hall.

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 2017-02-06  
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President, UAF Faculty Senate

APPROVAL: \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chancellor's Office

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

2/8/2017

DISAPPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chancellor's Office

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

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**Overview:**

Objectives of the minor:

Ethnobotany - Minor only

This interdisciplinary program provides students pursuing a bachelor's degree with an opportunity to continue exploring the complex and invaluable relationships between humans and plants. Although rooted firmly in traditional knowledge of Alaska Natives, this program branches out to include human-plant interactions from all over the globe, comparing and contrasting both traditional and current adaptations and explores the potential for economic development of ethnobotany.

This minor will appeal to students from other disciplines, including Alaska Native Studies, Rural Development, and Anthropology.

Relationship of required courses to the objectives of the minor:

Coursework that is currently required for the Ethnobotany Certificate make up the core of this minor and provides quality interdisciplinary academic instruction in the areas of biology, botany, ecology, anthropology, and chemistry so that students may gain the skill sets needed to become active stewards in natural and cultural resource management in their communities. Included in each of these core courses are aspects of both scientific understanding of plants (phenology, basic biology, chemistry, etc.) and the way that these plants have been traditionally and are currently being used by both indigenous and non-indigenous cultures in Alaska and all over the globe. They also learn techniques need to collect and identify plants, how to interview Elders and others regarding these plants, and conduct their own research projects, which are shared with local communities. Students also learn that harvesting wild plants must be done in an ecologically and culturally appropriate manner, and, in the new Applied Ethnobotany course, will learn how to create their own plant-based products from seasonally-harvest wild plants.

### **Relationship to Purposes of the University:**

UAF's core themes:

Educate: Undergraduate and Graduate Students and Lifelong Learners

Research: To Create and Disseminate New Knowledge, Insight, Technology, Artistic and Scholarly Works

Prepare: Alaska's Career, Technical, and Professional Workforce

Connect: Alaska Native, Rural, and Urban Communities by Sharing Knowledge and Ways of Knowing

Engage: Alaskans through Outreach for Continuing Education and Community and Economic Development

The Minor in Ethnobotany supports several of UAF's core themes by providing new educational opportunities that will allow students to gain the credentials they need to assume leadership positions in their communities and regions across the state. This will promote economic development and community wellness, in addition to reducing the high cost of importing expertise and services. This program provides stronger connections between rural and urban communities by adding to the University's academic offerings based on Alaska Native ways of knowing.

Since its inception in 2009, the students enrolled in the Ethnobotany Certificate Program have been requesting more coursework in this area of study. In the past several years, we have responded by successfully piloting several new courses; Ethnomycology, Folk Medicine, and Intermediate Ethnobotany. We have also received encouraging feedback from a student/community surveys conducted in 2012-2013 that indicated strong interest in development of an Ethnobotany minor. This increasing student interest in the topic of ethnobotany has expanded beyond the Certificate framework now, and is evident by the fact

that our students are taking our courses even if they do not fit within their current program. We would like to be able to offer them the opportunity to take more upper division courses that can lead to a minor in ethnobotany.

In fall 2016 the Ethnobotany program moved to the Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development to emphasize the Alaska Native focus of the program. The placement of the Ethnobotany minor program within the Department of Rural Development and Alaska Native Studies is a good fit for all concerned. Both are based in Alaska Native relevant curriculum, and provide opportunities for students to explore topics that concern rural communities. Ethnobotany provides students with better knowledge of traditional plant use, which can provide for better economic and community health, and Rural Development's "mission is to increase cultural awareness and strengthen leadership capacity for rural and Indigenous communities in Alaska and the Circumpolar North". We have been discussing the opportunities that the Ethnobotany minor will provide to the Rural Development Program over the past nine months, and have come to appreciate the benefits that this minor in Ethnobotany will have for both programs, both in increased student enrollment and in expanding the culturally relevant curriculum available at UAF.

### **Proposed Catalog Layout:**

#### **Ethnobotany Minor**

The Minor in Ethnobotany will provide students who have completed the Ethnobotany Certificate program with the opportunity to continue their studies and earn a baccalaureate degree focused on the relationship of plants and humans, an area of emphasis that is not currently available in the UAF catalog offerings. It will also provide students who are not in the EBOT Certificate with the option of fitting ethnobotany courses into their current DANSRD or other baccalaureate programs.

1. Complete the following:\*
- EBOT F100—Introduction to Ethnobotany – 3 credits
- EBOT F200—Seminar in Ethnobotany – 1 credit
- EBOT F210—Ethical Wildcrafting – 1 credit
- EBOT F220—Ethnobotanical Techniques – 2 credits
- and
- EBOT F230—Ethnobotanical Chemistry – 3 credits\*\*
- Or
- EBOT F250 and 251 –Applied Ethnobotany I and II –4 credits
2. Complete 3-4 Advisor-approved elective course(s):\*
3. Minimum credits required--15 credits

Prerequisites: CHEM F103X or CHEM F105X, or permission of instructor\*\*

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