Proposed Change to O/W Requirement

The proposal has a few basic components:

- Oral (O) and Written (W) REQUIREMENT would end as of the 2016-17 catalog

- O and W designators would be phased out as they are no longer needed (there is a possibility that some programs could retain the designators on their courses if they chose)

- Programs would develop a plan for delivering the following Communications Learning Outcomes within their degree program:
    - UAF undergraduates will demonstrate effective communication when they are able to:
        - Explain disciplinary content using a variety of modes of communication.
        - Communicate to audiences in the discipline using appropriate disciplinary conventions.
        - Translate disciplinary content to audiences outside the discipline, making disciplinary knowledge relevant to broader communities.
        - Integrate feedback from others to enhance or revise communication.
    - A draft framework for a plan is on the reverse of this page.

- The communications learning outcomes will be assessed by each program's faculty as part of their regular SLOA reporting.

- Not all courses or requirements need to support every outcome; however, all the outcomes must be met by the completion of the degree.
    - Plans would typically integrate communication outcomes via a collection of lower and/or upper level courses (possibly revised) and/or non-curricular degree requirements chosen to meet the needs of the particular program.

- Departments should submit as part of their initial Communications Plan a clarification for how they will handle the transition away from O/W designators for students who fall under a catalog prior to Fall 2016.

B.[A./S.] in [Program]: Communication Implementation Plan

Please address the following questions:

1. What kinds of communication-related products does your department need students to be able to produce? Are there particular modes of communication graduates should be expert in? (E.g., in biology, students need to be able to produce lab reports and present work via posters and in talks; in theatre, students need to be able to write synopses of plays and characters; in environmental engineering, students need to write reports and accessibly present technical ideas.)

2. How will students in your program learn to explain disciplinary content using a variety of modes of communication? In particular:
   a. How/where will your students develop written communication skills, specifically?
   b. How/where will your students develop oral communication skills, specifically?
   c. How/where will your students develop other forms of communication, specifically? (e.g. visual, non-verbal, graphical, aural)

3. How will students in your program learn to communicate to people within the discipline using appropriate disciplinary conventions? In particular:
   a. How/where will your students learn the disciplinary conventions related to written communication?
   b. How/where will your students learn the disciplinary conventions related to oral communication? (e.g., is the convention to give presentations with slides? Read scholarly articles?)

4. How will students in your program learn to translate disciplinary content to people outside the discipline, making disciplinary knowledge relevant to broader communities? In particular:
   a. How/where will your students learn to communicate disciplinary ideas to non-expert audiences?
   b. How/where will students acquire practice at communicating in the discipline, via writing or oral presentations or other modes (e.g., poster presentations), to a variety of audiences?

5. How will students in your program learn to integrate feedback from others to enhance or revise communication?
   a. How/where will your students have recurring opportunities for students to practice disciplinary communication with feedback from instructor and peers?
   b. How/where will students learn to integrate that feedback?

6. How will this plan accommodate students who declare their major late? Transfer students?

7. What is your plan to transition from the O/W requirement to the new system for students under catalogs prior to 2016-17?