

# Program Review 2011 Evaluation Form

## Program Information

Program Name \*i.e. Anthropology \_\_\_\_\_ Physics/General Science \_\_\_\_\_

College /School Name \*i.e. CLA \_\_\_\_\_ CNSM \_\_\_\_\_

Degree \*Please choose one from the list. (Cert., AAS, BA, BS, MA, MS etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ MS \_\_\_\_\_

## PART I - To be completed by the Faculty Program Review Committee

### 1. Quality and Assessment of the Program

Quality of the program, as determined by the establishment and regular assessment of program outcomes. Outcomes should be comprehensive, and indications of achievement should involve multiple measures and satisfy the properties of good evidence.

Please check all that applies to the Quality and Assessment of the Program.

- ☐ Separate plan for each program
- x Multiple measures of student outcomes
- ☐ Plan has direct evidence of student learning
- ☐ Assessment information is collected and summarized regularly
- ☐ Assessment summary is based on aggregate student information
- ☐ Assessment process has resulted in curricular improvement
- ☐ All elements recorded in the assessment plan are addressed in the assessment summary.

What is the evidence that students are achieving intended learning outcomes?

The department did not submit the outcome assessment plans for each program, but merged the information. This makes an evaluation on the program level nearly impossible. Based on the merged data we observe that:

Graduate evaluations are based on student committee reports, surveys, Direct evidence of learning (like thesis) are not considered in the provided plan. The table on page 3 of the report does not list any kind of implementation steps for the graduate level students.

Neither the provided plan nor the implementation appear to be adequate.

Committee's assessment and guidance on Quality and Assessment of the Program:

The department provided limited information. The provided information indicates, that the MS in general science program urgently needs an improved plan and implementation based on the lack of direct evidence of student learning (in the plan) and the lack of aggregated information in the assessment.

## 2. Demand for Program Services

Demand for program services, as indicated by measures such as: credit hour production appropriate to the program's mission, services performed by the program in support of other programs, graduates produced, the prospective market for graduates, expressed need by clientele in the service area, documented needs of the state and/or nation for specific knowledge, data, or analysis, other documented needed.

Committee's assessment and guidance on Demand for Program Services:

No information available specific to this degree.

From the report general information for undergraduates:

"In Alaska, we do not graduate enough engineering students to meet the states needs, and our physics graduates can meet some of that increased demand with little or no training for the job. Alaska Department of Labor ([www.labor.state.ak.us/research/iodata/occproj.htm](http://www.labor.state.ak.us/research/iodata/occproj.htm)) projects an increased (15%) need for atmospheric and space scientists over the next ten year period"

No information given for graduate programs.

## 3. Program Productivity and Efficiency

Program productivity and efficiency as indicated by courses, student credit hours, sponsored proposals and service achievements produced in comparison to the number of faculty and staff and the costs of program support (The latter may not be available or may be a combined cost for several programs).

Teaching:

No degrees awarded, very low number of students. This program is not productive.

Majors:

MS General Science	1	1
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Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity:

Department provides list of publications etc, not certain the relation to this program.

Did the program review include significant service achievements?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Committee's assessment and guidance on Program Productivity and Efficiency:

Limited information available on the program specific level. The department appears to be productive and provides important UAF contributions (e.g. to the Core).

No students in the program since FY 08, no graduates in FY06-FY10.

This program appears to have no student interest. Either the department substantially increases the recruitment for the program or it should be discontinued.

## 4. Program Duplication

Unnecessary program duplication resulting from the existence of a similar program or programs elsewhere in the UA statewide system (BOR policy). Academic programs offered by UAA are available online at <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/degrees/> and those offered by UAS are available at <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/academicis/alpha.html>

Committee's assessment and guidance on Program Duplication:

UAF seems to offer the only graduate program in the state.

## 5. Centrality of the Program

Centrality of the program to the mission, needs and purposes of the university and the unit.

Committee's assessment and guidance on Centrality of the Program:

No information specific to the program. The department contributes significantly to the space-grant mission of UAF as well as to the overall science Core contribution.

## 6. Timeliness

Timeliness of an action to augment, reduce or discontinue the program. [Address current internal or external factors that provide an opportunity for change, i.e. availability of new grant funding, increasing employment opportunities of graduates, or the departure of a significant portion of the faculty.]

Committee's assessment and guidance on Timeliness:

The department lists concerns regarding faculty retirement and replacement. The low number of students in this degree program does not support this statement. No information regarding the plans of the department to increase/decrease student enrollment in the MS program.

## 7. Cost of the Program

Cost of the program relative to the cost of comparable programs or to revenue produced (BOR policy). Because we are not currently able to provide program specific budget information or the cost of comparable programs, assessment will be based on proportionate cost.

Committee's assessment and guidance on the Cost of the Program:

No information available.

## 8. Partnerships

Program described successful partnerships resulting in scholarships, equipment or in-kind services during the past three years.

Committee's assessment and guidance on Partnerships:

On department level:

Physics Department has a Computer Laboratory which is supported by the John Noyes Computer Equipment and Lab Endowment.

Also in-house scholarship through external funding.

RECOMMENDATION by the Faculty Program Review Committee: Please check one

- ☒ Continue program (0 votes)
- x ☐ Discontinue program (7 votes)

Additional instructions for continuing program (if any): Please check applicable boxes

- ☒ Continue program but improve assessment process and reporting
- ☒ Continue program but improve other specific areas
- ☐

Comments (majority/minority statements welcome):

The program review report had insufficient information and did not address many of the requested points. The program has a very low number of majors (none in FY08-10) and no graduating students at all. No specific outcome assessment made available. Program should be discontinued.

Vote Count Please record the vote majority/minority:

[See above](#)

## **PART II - To be completed by the Administrative Program Review Committee**

RECOMMENDATION by the Administrative Program Review Committee:

- ☒ Continue program Voted: 0
- ☒ Discontinue program Voted: 10

Additional instructions for continuing program: Please check applicable boxes.

- ☐ Continue program but improve assessment process and reporting Voted: 0
- ☐ Continue program but improve other specific areas Voted: 0

Comments:

No degrees, no students. The physics department turned in just one report for all 11 programs. The report was poorly written and showed very little effort. The plan had just 1 outcome and very little evidence of how data would be collected or assessed. Following the formal table there were a lot of surveys almost impossible to decipher. No outcomes or any evidence of use of assessment to affect curriculum changes. There seems to be very little thought by this department on the difference between undergraduate and graduate degrees. While the MS degree is unique in the UA system, it has had no graduates in 5 years.

## **PART III- To be completed by the provost in consultation with the Chancellor's Cabinet**

RECOMMENDATION by the provost and Chancellor's Cabinet:

- ☒ Continue program
- ☒ Discontinue program

Additional instructions for continuing program: Please check applicable boxes

- ☐ Continue program but improve assessment process and reporting
- ☐ Continue program but improve other specific areas

Comments:

Only one student enrolled in this program in the past five years and there were no graduates. There is no demand for this program and it should be discontinued.