

NORTHERN STUDIES

College of Liberal Arts
907-474-7126
Interdisciplinary
www.uaf.edu/northern/

MA Degree

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 Rasmuson 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 nonthesis 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 Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, see International Study Abroad and Exchange Programs on page 82.

MA Degree

Concentrations: Individualized Study, Environmental Politics and Policy, Northern History, and Arctic Policy

1. Complete the general university requirements (page 200).
2. Complete the master's degree requirements (page 204).
3. Complete the following
NORS F600—Perspectives of the North3
NORS F601—Research Methods and Sources in the North3
4. Complete two elective courses at the F400 or F600 level.....6
5. Complete one of the following:
NORS F698—Non-thesis Research/Project.....6
NORS F699—Thesis 6–12
6. Complete one of the following concentrations:
Individualized Study*
Complete a total of 12 credits from the following:

- a. Course offerings selected from the relevant department** and/or,
- b. Courses offered within the Northern Studies program, including those in the other concentrations (below) and/or,
- c. Any of the following:
NORS F606—Science, Technology and Development in Northern Regions3
NORS F614—Human Adaptation to the Circumpolar North3
NORS F640—Ethics and Reporting in the Far North3
NORS F652—International Relations of the North3
NORS F660—Government and Politics of Canada.....3
NORS F662—Alaska Government and Politics3
NORS F668—Government and Politics of Russia3
NORS F680—Comparative Education.....3

* The individualized study concentration may be used as a basis for a MA thesis/project typically under the direction of a faculty member in the most relevant department.

** Some students may, with the consent of their graduate committee, develop an individualized program with an emphasis on Alaska Native studies, northern art, northern sociology, northern policy studies, or another northern field or discipline.

Environmental Politics and Policy*

Complete 12 credits from the following:

- NORS/PS F603—Public Policy3
NORS/PS F647—U.S. Environmental Policy3
NORS F648—Environmental Politics of the Circumpolar North3
NORS/PS F654—International Law and the Environment3
NORS/PS F655—Political Economy of the Global Environment3
NORS/PS F656—Science, Technology and Politics3
NORS/PS F658—Comparative Environmental Politics3
NORS F613—Wilderness and Environmental Psychology3

* The environmental politics and policy concentration may be used as a basis for the MA thesis/project.

Note: The environmental politics and policy concentration is a clear track toward interdisciplinary doctoral programs.

Northern History*

- a. Complete the following:
NORS/HIST F690—Researching and Writing Northern History3
- b. Complete 9 credits from the following:
HIST F470—Seminar in Alaska History3
NORS F661/HIST F662—History of Alaska3
NORS/HIST F663—Foundations of Russian History.....3
NORS/HIST F664—Modern Russia3
NORS/HIST F681—Polar Exploration and its Literature3
NORS/HIST F683—20th Century Circumpolar History.....3

* The northern history concentration may be used for the MA thesis/project.

Arctic Policy*

- a. Complete one of the following:
PS F669—Arctic Politics and Governance.....3
NORS F652—International relations of the North3
 - b. Complete 12 credits from the following:*
- PS F650—Comparative Aboriginal Rights.....3
PS F660—Government and Politics of Canada3
PS F662—Alaska Government and Politics.....3
PS F668—Government and Politics of Russia3
PS F669—Arctic Politics and Governance.....3
- * Students may substitute 1 course from other PS graduate offerings, with the approval of their graduate committee chair.
- c. Complete 6 credits from the following:**
ANTH F640—Northern Indigenous Peoples and Contemporary Issues3
ECON F637—Natural Resource Policy3
HIST F404—Modern Scandinavia.....3
NORS F661/HIST F662—History of Alaska3
NORS/HIST F664—Modern Russia3
NORS/HIST F683—20th Century Circumpolar History.....3
RD F601—Political Economy of the Circumpolar North3
- ** Students may substitute courses with approval of their graduate committee chair.
7. Minimum credits required30