

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR ARCTIC & NORTHERN STUDIES

STRENGTHS:

- Student enrollment and graduation rates in the MA are stable.
- Programs are highly interdisciplinary and collaborative.
- There is potential for increasing enrollment, especially through online delivery.
- They have shown success in preparing workforce with expertise in geo-politics of Arctic regions.
- It is the only program in Alaska as well as in the United States.
- Holds potential for producing more PhDs through the Interdisciplinary option.

WEAKNESSES:

- Small size of BA program: low number of students and graduates.
- Limited resources, especially the small number of faculty, to attract and keep students in the pipeline.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- With the rising concerns for the environment, this program is very timely.
- The interdisciplinary nature of the program lends itself to partnerships with other units and disciplines.
- There is demonstrated student demand for the MA degree.
- Expanding distance delivery option to enroll more students from Alaska and many places of circumpolar North could lead to increases in enrollment.

THREATS:

- Instability and continuous decline of state funding has led to a decrease in faculty and enrollment.
- There is competition from other universities that are developing programs with a similar Arctic focus.

CENTRALITY TO MISSION:

- Central to UAF mission, especially its emphasis on the circumpolar North.

INDICATORS OF QUALITY:

- Highly productive faculty in research publication.
- Preparing workforce for Alaska and circumpolar North.
- Program fosters collaborative work with many other disciplines.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS:

- All but two courses are cross-listed with other programs .
- Low number of FTEs (currently .31) is cost effective. Most faculty are supported by other departments.

	MAJORS	DEGREES
Arctic & Northern Studies BA	FY15: 0 FY19: 6	FY15: 0 FY19: 0
Arctic & Northern Studies MA	FY15: 37 FY19: 32	FY15: 3 FY19: 7

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Arctic and Northern Studies BA:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Deletion (6 votes, 1 for suspension, 1 abstention)	little documented student demand for the BA; few to no degrees awarded for the years under review	

Arctic and Northern Studies MA:

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation w/ improvement plan (7 votes, 1 abstention)	Develop plan for addressing completion rates, which could include advising students to maintain continued enrollment and progress toward degree. Explore development of graduate certificate in Arctic Policy. Work with eCampus to market online program to attract more students. Continue discussions on administrative merger with other CLA departments.	Two years